



OUR PLACE PRESS

JULY 2025

OUR HAPPENINGS

DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES & EVENTS WRITTEN BY PARTICIPANTS EVERY MONTH

90S THEME SATURDAY SOCIAL

BY: JASON

This past weekend on Saturday was the 90s theme night on Zoom with Our Place. Jessie led it and it was nice seeing her again. We listened to some music from the 90s on YouTube. Then, we played a trivia game guessing the cartoons, who the character was and what cartoon show they're from. Even members onsite played with us. It was good seeing them participate. We've had that before in other socials, doing the stuff from the early 90s such as Jeopardy, TV sitcoms, Nickelodeon shows, musical artists, and movies. It's really fun to play those games with your friends and families.



Saturday Night Social

I AM DOING A LOT OF DIFFERENT PROGRAMS

BY: MICHAELA

I am doing a lot of different programs at Our Place. I have pantry on Monday, rec center and the animal shelter on Tuesday. The doggies and kittens are so cute! On Wednesday I have culinary arts. My two favorite foods we made were French toast (I love breakfast food) with sausages and Mexican lasagna. On Thursday we have community lunch. I wish more people were adventurous in their food taste. Corner Bakery, McAlister's, and Dengeos.

HEARTLAND ANIMAL SHELTER

BY: MICHAELA

Heartland Animal Shelter has doggies and kittens. They are so cute. They have a separate section for kittens and doggies. They have vet services and doggie playroom where we meet the doggies. There's a separate kitten area too. We help with the kibble and put it into bags. We also made kitten toys. There's an office, lunch room, and lobby.



Heartland Animal Shelter

MY FAVORITE SUMMER ACTIVITIES

BY: WES

I love to play games and do activities outside during the summer. When I'm inside, I play video games. I like to be athletic outside. I go biking with my dad. We ride around the park and sometimes the Botanic garden. My favorite food to eat in the summer is hamburgers. My family does cookouts. My family and I go to Wisconsin every year. We play bingo. We also spend time near the water. I like swimming in Lake Michigan. I spend time with my cat and I walk my dog. I love popsicles and mint chocolate chip ice cream. I go to Ravinia for entertainment. I listen to concerts and eat dinner outside. I like summer because it is relaxing.

RHYTHM CIRCLE AND POUND FIT

BY: P.K.

It is fun and cool. I'm glad that Ellie is doing it. She is doing her job well. We play music, but we use our bodies as instruments. We snap, clap, stomp our feet, all of the above. Then we get out our sticks, medicine balls, and buckets. We play drums on the medicine balls. I don't get sweaty drumming on the ball, but some people do. Pound fit is on Tuesdays after Music Makers. Good program, very cool.



P.K. and Ellie

MUSIC MAKERS

BY: P.K.

It's cool because Ellie likes to lead it. Jack, Julie, and Jessie are there too. It's fun. Heather likes to sing. Heather is doing a good job. We play drums and boom whackers. Music Makers is on Tuesdays. I am always excited for Music Makers. Sometimes Heather gives us a maraca or tambourine to play with her. Sometimes we change the lyrics to a song. It's a little goofy when we change the lyrics. It's a good program.

INTERVIEWING ELLIE

BY: MARY

Q: What is your favorite ice cream?

A: Ben and Jerry's half baked, which is like half brownie and cookie dough

Q: What kind of sushi roll do you like?

A: Spicy tuna rolls

Q: Do you like sushi bowls or sushi rolls?

A: Both

Q: What is your favorite program at Our Place?

A: Beach and community outings

Q: Do you like Harry Potter?

A: No

Q: Do you like Twilight?

A: Yes

Q: What are your brother's names?

A: James and Jack

Q: What is your favorite food, not sushi?

A: pizza

Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: Finding Nemo

Q: What is your favorite Starbucks drink?

A: An iced caramel latte.

Q: What is your fun fact?

A: Ellie knows how to sail

Q: Have you been to Ravinia to see a concert?

A: She has not. She wants see it someday



Lucy, Mary, Sam, and Zach

JESSIE

BY: NATALIE

She is a nice friend
She goes to Our Place
I do lunch with her Jessie
I like to takes photos with her Jessie
I hang out with her Jessie
Jessie rocks, I say to her



Natalie and Jessie

INTERVIEWING LUCY

BY: MARY

Q: Do you like acai bowls?

A: Never tried it

Q: What kind of sushi roll do you like?

A: I enjoy California rolls.

Q: Do you like sushi bowls or sushi rolls?

A: Rolls

Q: What is your favorite program at our place?

A: Our Place Press, community outings

Q: Do you like Twilight?

A: No

Q: What is your favorite food, not sushi?

A: Gyros

Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: My Neighbor Totoro

Q: What is your favorite Starbucks drink?

A: Iced hazelnut shaken espresso with oat milk

Q: What is your fun fact?

A: She is a writer

Q: Have you been to Ravinia to see a concert?

A: Yes, Carrie Underwood and The Wiggles

Q: Do you watch The Vampire Diaries?

A: No

Q: Do you watch Buffy the Vampire Slayer?

A: No, on her list

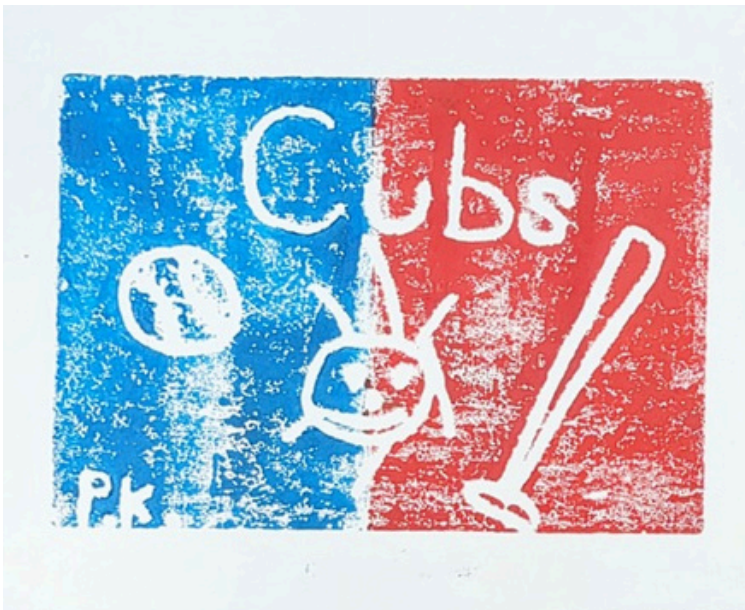
THE CUBS

BY: P.K.

The Cubs are having a good year. They're going to have a good season. They're going to win this year. Natalie says, "Go Cubs!". Jon Lester is a good guy. I wish that he was still on the team.

The Cubs have a big series versus the Brewers. The Cubs are going to win, I hope. I hope they fly the W. They need to hit some home runs. They have to hit all of the basics. It's going to be a long series. We're tied with the Brewers for the division and I think it is going to be a tough match. I hope the Cubs are going to win. I am eager to see them win. The fans will be excited and I think it is going to be an exciting matchup. I think they're going to crush it.

Sometimes I like to go to baseball games. I go with my mom or dad sometimes to watch the Cubs. I like to eat a hot dog, hamburger, all of the above. It's fun.



Art by P.K.



Art by P.K.

DA BEARS

BY: P.K.

The Bears season is going to start soon. The Bears are going to have a good season. I hope they are going to win this season. I think they will have a good season because they have a good roster. The quarterback is Caleb Williams, he is a cool guy. He is lucky that he gets to play football. He knows how to win, he knows how to get a touchdown.

I'm glad the Bears got a new coach, his name is Ben Johnson. He used to coach for the Detroit Lions, now he's with us. Ha. I like to watch every single Bears game. I usually watch with my Dad. I like to see them win. Sometimes we eat hamburgers while we watch. It's fun to watch.

I also watched the NFL draft with my Dad. The Bears drafted Colston Loveland. He plays Tight End. He went to The University of Michigan. That's my favorite school. I feel good about it. He's a good player, he does cool tricks.

The Bears are going to have a good season and have a good year.

LIFE UPDATES

BY: MARY

On Saturday, June 28 I had a workout. Then I went home. I had strawberries. Every Saturday, I have a call with my friend but I did not have it on Saturday, June 28. She was busy. My mom and dad and I picked our own strawberries at Thompson farm. We shopped at Lake Forest Oasis Travel Plaza for lunch. We picked strawberries. I had shaved ice at Thompson farm. Then we went home.

On Monday, June 30 I went to Our Place. I had a Community Lunch. I saw my dad at the Wilmette library. My dad and I took Katie to the train station. Then we went to Our Place to meet my mom. Then we went back to Our Place to get my mom's car. Then we went home.

On Friday, July 4 I went to work. Then my mom and I went shopping for groceries. Then we had a cookout. Then we saw fireworks from the car.

On Sunday, July 6 I went to work. Then I gave birthday gifts to mom. Then I went out dinner and dessert.

MY WEEKEND

BY: ZACH

My weekend was great. We went out for dinner. I had pasta with meatballs and I also saw a movie called Hairpay. The movie was funny with John Travolta. I loved the popcorn and also loved the movie.

ALCHEMY COFFEE AND BAKE WITH DAD

BY: JOSH

This weekend dad and I went to Alchemy Coffee and Bake Shop and we bought scones and went home. Then I had a date and walnut scone for my after-breakfast snack as an entrée and I watered the bushes in my front yard and all the plants in my backyard and I drank lots of water and took a nap in my bedroom while mom took Zack to work and shopped at Heinen's in Glenview and dad picked up our mail from the Wilmette Post Office. Then dad took me to the Saturday Social and I had dinner at Our Place. After dinner we all watched A Goofy Movie and I had a mini vanilla cupcake and Twizzlers for dessert and did mini karaoke while mom picked Zack up from work. Then dad picked me up at 9:00 and we went home. Yesterday I had a multi-grain croissant for breakfast with strawberry jam and leftover Domino's pizza for lunch. Then I watered the bushes again and all the flowers and plants in my front yard and drank water (as I stay hydrated) and took another nap. After naptime we had cheese ravioli for dinner and I dipped challah in tomato sauce and ate a mini cucumber and my last brownie alamode for dessert. In fact, the soil needed water when all the bushes and flowers grow and our front yard hose has a sprinkler outside after some workers got rid of all that grass so it's grown old and dead.

DAVE AND BUSTER'S

BY: NATALIE

I went to Dave and Buster's for my community outing. I won at the claw machine. 200 tickets! I played arcade machines with Patrick staff, Lucy staff, and Claire. I got baseball and basketball prizes and took them with me.

TUESDAY NIGHT

BY: KATIE L

This Tuesday night in the new session summer I hung out. I took a nap, hung out, had to go out to lunch and then get to our sign language class. I get my stuff ready for sign language class. I went to DQ for dinner and drinks and ice cream with vanilla rainbow sprinkles. We go every Tuesday and we have fun and enjoy our summer going to different places. I have a new teacher. Martha and I both go together. And then we go back home.

GROUP OUTING AT GURNEE

BY: KATIE L

I went to Round 1 with my Center for Enriched Living group. We ate lunch at Gurnee Mills mall. We walked around. I had lunch and went to Claire's to shop for some things, like a stuffed animal and friendship bracelets. We went to an arcade to play games and have fun. We took a bus at 11:00pm and got gaming cards. We had a lot of time to play. I had a snack and drink. We came back on the bus to CEL. My dad dropped me off and picked me up and we went home together. We hung out with my family.



Natalie and Ellyn at Dave and Buster's

FUN AT A WEDDING

BY: KATIE L

This weekend I went to a wedding at Notre Dame for a wedding. We went to a wedding party afterwards and brunch. On Sunday we went to mass and then we stayed at my mom's friend's house and stayed over for one weekend. I was dancing, having fun, and talking to my cousins. We spent a lot of time together after the wedding and we did a lot of fun things together. I met my new special needs friend and my family. A new special needs kid that is in the 6th grade.

ST. LOUIS SIX FLAGS

BY: KATIE L.

On early Friday morning it is dark out. We were listening to Marc Maron, a new podcaster that had been in shows ever since when he was last on IFC. He has the new podcast thing going on on Spotify that we listened to when we went to charge the car in Springfield. There is this place that we go to, Wally's Convenience store. That is where we go to the bathroom. The best part is doing the car ride with new music artists, bands, and groups on the way to St. Louis. We would recently go there to do Six Flags. We did Mr. Freeze, Boomerang, Catwoman, and then there was American Thunder and Boss. That is the one we did three times when we went there recently last year. This year's Six Flags Great America has been the best so far. We had that brand-new ride that came out: The Wrath Of Rakshasa. We went to get breakfast sandwiches and coffee. I got the Carmel Macchiato that was the Salted Carmel. The best Part was when we finished one of our games, Super Mario Wonder. It was fun. That was my summer so far.

BOWLING AT WILMETTE BOWL

BY: KATIE L.

It's fun and there's an arcade, but we don't use it. I go there on Wednesdays. I'm happy that I do bowling with Barb. I'm with her all day. It's a good place and it's a good location. I like to go bowling when the energy is on. I have lots of friends that I bowl with.

MY SUMMER SO FAR

BY: ANDREW

On Saturday we went to Old Irving. It is in Chicago. It is also one of our favorite places. We went to have both lunch and dinner. It is the best. The coolest part was getting the Mac Of The Month, which is one of my new favorites. When we go there, this one is the best so far: it is a Bacon Double Cheeseburger with mozzarella, Della Kolsch beer cheese sauce, USDA Prime ground beef, and a blend of brisket, short rib, and chunks of bacon. That was the best that I had so far, including the weekend of fun that will soon be coming up pretty soon that we will be going to St. Louis for Six Flags. That will be the next weekend after the Will's Place Concert. I will be counting on it by looking forward to it. That will be going on next week.

We just went to the Will's Place Concert and it was the best. It was just like when we went to the Totally 80's Music Tribute with all artists and bands, groups including the guy that did Year Of The Cat. He was good. I liked it. The best part was when they did have the MC that introduced the bands. This is a guy that did stand up as in stand up comedy. He was funny and goofy with the jokes he said about Will's Place, being with the family and enjoying the friendships, and had great enthusiasm from bringing everybody back together again because that is what he does. Al Stephens does his hit single at the very end of the Will's Place Concert.

FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND

BY: MICHAELA

On the Fourth of July Mary, Danny, my nephew Tommy and I were going to do fireworks after dinner. Danny had made sausages, shrimp, crab and potatoes. It was pretty good, the sausages and potatoes. We ate outside for a while. Then it became too hot. Then we decided to get ice cream at Dairy Star. It is a small little ice cream shop. I had a mint milkshake. Mary and Danny had root beer floats with vanilla ice cream. Tommy had a kiddie cup of vanilla ice cream. On Saturday Mary and I went to the salon to wash my hair. We were a little early. We could walk there from the house if we wanted to. There is a cake bakery right next to the salon. It was closed for the holiday. A guy from the car said he had traveled very far to the cake bakery for certain dessert items. Then Mary and I went to Starbucks and got vanilla lattes. We also got iced coffee for Danny. We also went to the gas station.

On Sunday, Ann and Zoe are Oak Park family. They brought pastries, croissants, donuts, and danishes. They toured our whole house afterwards once Tommy was napping. We played with Tommy and Athena a lot. Then Ann and Zoe go to Michigan for the summer. Then Mary, Danny, Tommy and I went to a restaurant for lunch. It is called Omega. I had a hot meatloaf sandwich with mashed potatoes. I also had a Sprite. Danny had cold sandwiches. Tommy had mostly potatoes and chicken and got a super big cookie from the waitress. Then we went to the house. We heard fireworks at night because people do it illegally in a parking lot right next to our house. There were also some from the restaurant parking lot.

FOURTH OF JULY

BY: NATALIE

I saw the fireworks in Michigan. It was fun. I was with my family and other people. I had a day off and slept. I had breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The fireworks were cool. I took pictures of the fireworks at night. I got ready for the fireworks. I went shopping with my mom and got key chains for people I know. That's what I did with people.

FOURTH OF JULY

BY: ZACH

My weekend was great. We completed the fourth of July and we had hamburgers. We also saw some fireworks and we all watched TV. I had friends come over Saturday. We had popcorn. On Sunday we also watched the Cubs win and also had apple juice. We also went out for dinner and I had shrimp. I also watched the Lakers.



Happy Building by Zach

FOURTH OF JULY

BY: JOSH

This weekend on the 4th of July my mom and dad and I saw the fireworks because the Gilson Park is too hot for us. Last Friday dad and I went to the farmer's market in Wilmette and I bought mini donuts with powdered sugar. Then we went home and I ate them for my breakfast entrée. Then I walked on the treadmill in the office and drank lots of water and took a nap in my bedroom and sliced all the pickles and dad cooked the hamburgers, barbecue chicken, and hotdogs on our grill. In fact, dad took Zack to work and dropped him off at Heinen's in Glenview. For dinner we had a barbecue and had a mini chocolate cupcake with red, white, and blue frosting and star shaped sprinkles on top and watermelon for dessert and heard the fireworks again. Last Saturday dad and I walked to Frio Gelato and I drank lots of water again and I had pink lemonade ice cream for my dessert snack at 3:00 and we walked back to his gray car and I drank more water and went home with my dad and took another nap and we had Thai food for dinner and I had a small cupcake for dessert. Yesterday my parents bought scones from the Wilmette bakery and they went home and brought them in the house. Then dad mowed the back lawn and my mom baked brownies and I licked the bowl and I walked on the office treadmill and drank water (as I stay hydrated) and also took another nap. Then I had cheesy bean burritos for dinner and a mini cucumber and a brownie alamode for dessert. Also in fact, dad picked Zack up from work and they headed home. During our 4th of July barbecue we had our hamburgers, chicken with barbecue sauce, corn on the cob, hotdogs and potato chips for dinner in the living room.

FOURTH OF JULY

BY: ANDREW

We were in the float for the 4th of July with the Will's Place group. We were trying to get everyone to come to the concert that is coming pretty soon in July on the 10th of the month. The Festival of Cultures was our organization that we just had in the parade, ever since the last time when we were in the parade it was in 2024. That was when we were selling the key lime pies. This time I have a neck fan. That is what I had during the parade. It was raining at the first moment. New places were there. Even Culver's was there. That was the best when the ice cream guy came walking in before the parade started. It was me and Brad, and Connor, including Xander. While we were floating across the Skokie area it was like sunny out. The weather was great. The sun was out with a cool breeze from where we were in the Skokie area. We were this close to where Will's was. Half of everybody was there watching us. I saw Zane with this black tank top and a ball of fire in the middle and along comes Jackie and Max. They came on by to see us. We were with the old classic cars including the Model A that was in front of us and then some random guy showed up with a box with pizza. I finally got to have lunch.

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

BY: JOSH

This weekend I watered all the bushes in my front and backyard, but not all the flowers. Then I drank lots of water and took a nap in my bedroom and dad took me to the Saturday Social and I had dinner at Our Place. After dinner we watched baseball and I had a vanilla cupcake for dessert as we did karaoke. After Our Place dad picked me up at 9:00 and we went home. Yesterday mom and dad and I went to the Skokie Farmer's Market and I ate a chocolate donut with sprinkled Oreo cookies on top as an after-breakfast snack. So we bought gouda cheese and cherries and we shopped for more groceries at Heinen's in Glenview. After our shopping trip, we went home and carried all our groceries into the house and I watered all the bushes some more and drank water (as I stay hydrated) and took another nap. After naptime I cut up some lettuce and a tomato and we had beef tacos and Spanish rice mixed with corn and quinoa for dinner and packed my stuff up for Emily and Jared's Glenview house. After dinner Jared and I dropped Emily off and we went to Target in the Niles Golf Mill Mall and bought chocolate ice cream with peanut butter and a few more. Then we went to their house and unpacked my clothes and my bathroom stuff and I had a brownie alamide for dessert before my sleepover. In fact, my parents had a doctor's appointment at Rush Hospital in downtown Chicago for my mom's belly checkup. Also in fact, my mom made dark chocolate pecans and refrigerated them in the dining room refrigerator.

MY WEEKEND (PARTS 1&2)

BY: MICHAELA

My brother Danny went to Phish concerts Friday and Sunday. He is obsessed. My brother Danny made Italian sausages and hot dogs on the barbecue. I went to Goodwill with my sister-in-law Mary and my nephew Tommy. We went to Starbucks beforehand and I got an iced mocha. Mary got an iced latte. Tommy is so smart. He knows so many words. Pizza, cookies, avocados, coffee, bus, train.

On Friday I went to a new hair salon, Supercuts, for a wash with my sister-in-law Mary. Then we went to the Starbucks across the street. I had a vanilla latte and a strawberry cake pop. Then on Saturday I went to Chick-fil-A with my brother Danny. I had a sausage, egg, cheese biscuit sandwich and an iced coffee with vanilla. They had really good ice coffee. Then we went to Pet Supplies Plus to find a leash for my doggie Athena. They didn't have what we were looking for but we went to another store and we found what we were looking for. On Sunday I was hanging out with my doggie.

MY WEEKEND

BY: WES

This weekend, I watched the Cubs game. I was rooting for the Yankees, but they lost. I went to Saturday social and had cheese pizza. We watched the Goofy movie. I enjoyed it! Before the social, I played a video game at home. I also spent some time outside. When I was outside, I drew with chalk on the sidewalk. I used red, orange, and green. On Sunday, I went to church with my family. We had breakfast. My favorite part about my weekend was watching cartoons.

FRIDAY NIGHT

BY: MICHAELA

On Friday we had pizza. On Saturday I went to a writing workshop called Heartwords online. My sister-in-law Mary invited her friends Carla and Jess to show them the new place. They're pretty nice. One of them has a doggie named Iris. They got along with Tommy and Athena. On Sunday my family Danny, Mary, and little Tommy were supposed to go to a carnival near our new place but you can't just walk in like the olden days. You have to pay. So we decided to go to Raising Cane's. We had chicken tenders and spirits.

MY PARENTS' ROCHESTER TRIP IN MINNESOTA

BY: JOSH

Last week, my parents were out of town just like last month so Emily and I shopped at Jerry's Fruit and Garden in Niles and we headed back to her Glenview house and bought a few groceries and I helped Jared mow the front lawn. In fact, mom and dad went to Rochester, Minnesota and stayed at the Candlewood Suites and they went to Mayo Clinic so she had an extra appointment for her x-ray picture taken and had an IV in her arm. Then my parents bought Stam's chocolates and had dinner at Chester's. Also in fact, my parents bought a peach muffin, a cinnamon roll and some donuts at Hollandberry Pannekoken. Last Saturday I packed everything up, except for my dirty laundry and I watered Emily and Jared's plants in their yards so Jared and I took Emily to the Skokie Hospital and dropped her off for her doctor's appointment and she had a special shot in her back and her foot before he drops me off at work. After packing Emily and Jared and I went back home in Wilmette and watered all the bushes in my front yard, and so are all the flowers. Then I walked on the office treadmill and drank lots of water and took a nap in my bedroom and my parents drove all the way back and headed home so Jared took me to the Saturday Social and I had dinner and watched baseball on the screen. After dinner we all did karaoke and I had a thin chocolate chip cookie for dessert and Emily and Jared picked me up at 9:00 and dropped me off at home. Yesterday I watered the bushes, the flowers and all other plants again in my front and backyard and drank water (as I stay hydrated) and I took another nap and had corn chowder soup as an appetizer and some salmon, mashed potatoes and a cucumber for dinner and a half chocolate donut for dessert as Emily dropped Juno off at home in Wilmette.

MY FAVORITE SUMMER SPORTS

BY: ELLYN

MY FAVORITE SUMMER SPORTS ARE
SWIMMING AND TRACK AND FIELD
AND KICKBALL I ALSO LIKE SOCCER
SWIMMING IS MY FAVORITE SPORT
AND GOLFING I LIKE OTHERS AS WELL
I LIKE VOLLEYBALL AND BOWLING
I LIKE TO BE OUTSIDE WHERE IT'S NICE
OUT
I LIKE SOFTBALL AS WELL
I LIKE FIELD EVENTS SOFTBALL THROWING
AND SHOT PUT I'M A SPECIAL OLYMPIAN
SWIMMER I GET GOLD MEDALS AND
SILVER MEDALS
AS WELL.

MY FAVORITE SUMMER ACTIVITIES

BY: ELLYN

MY FAVORITE SUMMER ACTIVITIES.
MY FAVORITE SUMMER ACTIVITIES ARE
CAMPING AND SWIMMING AND MINI GOLF
GOING TO THE CUBS GAME HEY CHICAGO
WHAT TO SAY THE CUBS ARE GOING TO
WIN TODAY.
I LIKE TO EAT PRETZELS AND CHEESE AND
WATER.
I ALSO LIKE TO GO TO THE BOTANICAL
GARDEN.
I ALSO LIKE TO GO ON WINDELLA BOAT
RIDES.
I ALSO LIKE TO GO SHOPPING. TARGET IS
WHERE IT'S AT
AND OLD NAVY AS WELL.
I ALSO LIKE TO GO TO THE CONCERTS LIKE
THE BEACH BOYS.

BURGERS AND RIVERWALK

BY: ANDREW

We went to the downtown area in Chicago for Gordon Ramsay's Burger Place. I got to have everything: The Brunch Burger with a hash browns patty, bacon and eggs, and cheese, including the beer-battered onion rings in which were good. It was hours and hours of getting to the Riverwalk and seeing the people going kayaking and big boats like the ones that we saw. We saw the paddleboats that have the wheel in the back and were watching the tour boats go underneath the bridge and back. The best part was when we went to the outside bar to go get a Mai Tai. The coolest part of the weekend was going to Gordon Ramsay's Burger place where I got The Oreo Crème Brûlée Shake. Then there was the train ride back. It was exactly like when we would be going on the Amtrack to Minnesota. That is the brand new thing that we would be doing this summer.

CULTURE CORNER

OUR PLACE FOR REVIEW, RECIPES, SPECIAL INTEREST AND MORE

ALWAYS SOMETHING THERE

BY: ANDREW

We went to the Marriott Lincolnshire where we saw Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. This time we saw the 80's mixtape musical Always Something There. It is about a mom that wants to go back in time and live her life in the 80's when she was in high school. The mother makes a birthday wish and then gets stuck in the 80's as her younger self with the best music including the songs that we know of like The Go-Go's and Steve Perry. The best part was when they were doing the battle of the bands and made many new jokes. The band was called The Rubber Bands that had Cooper as the lead singer. They do music of the inspiration of the 80's from back then, references to movies like The Breakfast Club and Back To The Future. They do dance a lot because there were lights that changed colors from both sides of the stage. The best part was getting there and back from Gordon Ramsay's Burger Place to the Riverwalk, where we saw the people kayaking and boats touring around the downtown area of Chicago.



Always Something There

MY FAVORITE SUMMER MOVIES

BY: ELLYN

MAMA MIA AND THE LITTLE MERMAID AND GREASE AND SNOW WHITE

AND I ALSO LIKE THE LION KING IT'S MY FAVORITE SUMMER MOVIE

I ALSO LIKE THE JUNGLE BOOK AS WELL I ALSO LIKE KING LOUIE I DO LIKE MOANA I ALSO LIKE MAMA MIA 2

I ALSO LIKE HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL AND HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 2

I ALSO LIKE CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

I LOVE MY MUPPETS I ALSO LOVE KERMET THE FROG

'SUPERMAN' SOARS AGAIN!!!

BY: SEAN

It was only yesterday, July, 13, 2025, when my mom and I went to the movies to see the new Superman film that finally came out in theaters this past Friday. I have been excited for this film ever since I saw the first trailer. But before we took two toes inside the theater, the two of us got lunch at Potbelly. After that we went into the theater, got some snacks, and found our seats but not necessarily in that order. And then only a little bit later it was movie time!! It was a little over two hours of high flying action, pure fun, and some heart later the movie wrapped up. This Superman movie takes place 3 years after Superman first appears in Metropolis and only a few months into his relationship with Lois Lane. A few other super friends like Guy Gardner(Green Lantern), Mr. Terrific, and Hawkgirl are around and of course some villains and monsters are around too like Lex Luthor and Ultraman. This film follows Superman as he navigates an onslaught by Lex Luthor and his super powered villain allies on multiple fronts. His friendships and relationships go up and down as the story unfolds. Superman also deals with the world's perspective of him as it changes throughout the film. Overall, this film is fun, adventurous, action packed, with heart, and gives us the hope of Superman in the starlight. Jame Gunn the director of the film delivers as well as many of the other actors in it. I am glad I got a chance to see this terrific film in theaters!! I give this movie a 9 out of 10!! ^_^



'Superman' Soars Again

A NIGHT WITH LINDSEY STIRLING AND THE CHICAGO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

BY: SEAN

The day and time has arrived, my excitement for this has culminated with a count down in my Instagram stories. It's June 26th, 2025: a hot and humid Thursday in the Chicagoland area. And my mom and I have started our drive to park at her work. Once parked, the two of us walked over and had a nice dinner at Panera Bread. I had my usual yet delicious barbecue chicken sandwich and my mom got a tuna salad sandwich. After we ate, the two of us went over to the train station where we waited for our train while trying not to melt in the heat. Will Lindsey and the orchestra have to deal with playing in this?

Following a little bit of a wait we board our train to the Ravinia park stop. We enjoyed our little ride there. Once reaching our stop, we disembark and head off into the lovely yet still heat sweltering Ravinia park. It took us a little to get to the pavilion where we caught a glimpse of Lindsey doing the VIP group stuff. Perhaps someday I can do something like that, that's the dream ain't it? So, with some good amount of time we found our way to the Lindsey merch store area where I bought a pin and a poster which I hope to frame on my wall somewhere. It was right after this, scattered thunder showers were passing by and would remain in the vicinity for most of the night cooling off temperatures into the upper 70s. It was a little miracle of sorts and once I bet Lindsey and the orchestra were as grateful as we were.



Lindsey Stirling and the Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra

A NIGHT WITH LINDSEY STIRLING AND THE CHICAGO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA (PART 2)

BY: SEAN

After having a lovely conversation with another Lindsey fan and waiting some more time by the pavilion, it was time to go in and take our seats. And 30 minutes later, it was time for the performance to begin. It would last about 2 hours with an intermission of 15 to 20 minutes. We had pretty awesome seats as we could see Lindsey Stirling and the orchestra quite well!! She played some of her classics like "Roundtable Rival" and "Shatter Me" but she also played a song about dancing skeletons which was fascinating and she played some songs off her most recent album Duality which was simply amazing. It was also my first time hearing songs off this album live in person and the songs she played from it were Serenity Found, Untamed, Evil Twin, and Eye of the Untold Her. It was beautiful and magical, that's the best way to describe this performance. The way the orchestra played, the way Lindsey danced, twirling and graceful across the stage and sitting down with the orchestra for a song. Lindsey's drummer Drew and guitarist Ryan were there too. She has toured with us then for a while now with Drew being around the longest. And then there were Lindsey's two dresses, the pretty flowery pink gown and the mesmerizing dark blue twinkling starry night gown. The latter one was my favorite as she breathlessly stunning in it. It added a little extra magic to the night as did the stories she told about her late dad, anxiety, and sharing pizza. Overall the night was magical and beautiful with electrical energy in the air. And do I mean this literally too!! And honestly, it is an experience I would do again in a heartbeat. I loved this performance and the night as a whole. And I love and appreciate Lindsey Stirling as an artist and a person. She has been inspirational to me in many ways and has inspired quite a few poetic pieces I have written throughout the last many years. Anyways I can't wait for my concert and next experience like this!! I hope someday I can have a VIP experience and give Lindsey the biggest gratitude hug!! Here's to living our dreams out loud!! And to the power of music to heal and inspire!!



Lindsey Stirling and the Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra