



OUR PLACE PRESS

MARCH 2025

OUR HAPPENINGS

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

TEACHING KARATE FOR BELT TESTING

BY: VAL

At my karate dojo, there was a belt testing for the kids' lower level. I was giving orders to them and I told myself, "Okay Val, you got this!" I gave the orders about what direction to move to. Before you know it, I was helping them reserve their next belt! My karate teachers were so happy. He gave me a promotion to teach the whole class next Saturday. I told my karate teachers, "guys, I don't know much about teaching karate. Any tips or tricks?" My karate friends told me to get a book all about being a karate instructor. Any advice is appreciated!



*Val wearing her USA National Karate
Championship medal*

CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK'S DAY

BY: JOSH

This weekend, my dad took me to the Riverwoods Center for Enriched Living and dropped me off. We all went to the Saint Patrick's Day parade and watched. I took pictures of a marching Irish band and Irish dancers on the road in Palatine and collected all that candy, a bouncy ball, some chap stick, Irish beads and brochures. Then we went to Panda Express and had Chinese food for lunch on East Dundee Road. We also went to the Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve in Long Grove. After that, we walked along the trail and I drank lots of water and we headed back to Center in Riverwoods. Jared picked me up and I carried one paper bag of frozen croissants and alfredo pasta from Trader Joe's into the house and then took a nap in my bedroom. Then dad took me to Saturday Social at Our Place and I had dinner in the Our Place basement studio. We played Saint Patrick's Day trivia and other Irish games online. After that, I switched to karaoke in the loud room and dad picked me up and we went home. Yesterday, my parents shopped at Sara's Tent in Skokie and I carried all the groceries into our house. I also shoveled the snow off the ramp and the deck and brushed all that snow off those cars. I drank water while staying hydrated and took another nap and had four cheese ravioli with tomato sauce and sprinkled cheese on top and broccoli for dinner and a raspberry bar and candy for dessert. In fact, I waved to a bagpipe player across from Plum Grove Road.



Our Place's St. Patrick's Day Celebration

SPRING SESSION

BY: JASON

For the spring session, I am still in Avenues on Mondays and Wednesdays. On Wednesdays, we volunteer at the library in Niles and Restore Habitat for Humanity. For now, I am only volunteering at the library, but maybe I'll try the Restore Habitat for Humanity one another time. I'm still doing programs with MNASR (Maine -Niles Association of Recreation). I do their online workout and k9 companions. I do this every other week. I am also trying out their Saturday Social club. We meet up at MNASR and then go to various places in the area. It should be fun; I've never done it before. I'm willing to give it a shot. I have a pretty good schedule for spring.



Jason at the Our Place Benefit

SPRINGFIELD

BY: ZACH

I am going to Springfield with my mom. I might see Abraham Lincoln's ghost. We might stay in the Lincoln Hotel and might have a sleepover. I'll bring my phone and my iPad and sleep in the bed. We might watch TV, see a movie, and go bowling.

PAINTED PENGUIN

BY: KATIE L.

I went with the Center for Enriched Living to Painted Penguin. It was a new experience for me. I got some help from someone that worked there. I thought it was something different, but it was art spray, something I haven't done before. I was happy. We took a bus there and back. We had a snack and then my dad picked me up.



Painted Penguin Art



Wes having fun in Music Makers

VISITING FAMILY

BY: WES

I went to Florida with my mom and dad. We visited my aunt, uncle, two cousins, and my cousin's one year old son. We had warm weather, although it wasn't quite warm enough for the beach. We also went to a state park and walked on dunes and along the beach at the Atlantic Ocean. I also walked up 105 steps to the top of Jupiter Lighthouse in Jupiter, Florida. There were clear skies and a beautiful view. Only problem was that then we had to walk all the way back down! We visited a marine center that takes care of injured turtles. We got to see all sizes of turtles. We went out to dinner at seafood restaurant and a Thai restaurant. We got to eat and sit out by the water. I loved the plane ride to and from-the window seat is my favorite!

HAPPY SPRING

BY: ELLYN

HAPPY SPRING
AND HAPPY GARDENING
I LIKE TO GARDEN
IN THE SPRING
MY FAVORITE SPRING
VEGETABLES ARE CARROTS
AND LETTUCE AND TOMATOES
AND GREEN AND RED PEPPERS
I ALSO LIKE TO GARDEN
SPRING FRUIT AS WELL.
MY FAVORITE SPRING
FRUITS ARE STRAWBERRIES
MY FAVORITE FRUIT
I LOVE MY WATER MELON
THEY ARE PINK.
IM A WATER MELON
SUGAR HIGH GIRL
I LIKE RASPBERRIES AS WELL
IM A GREEN BEAN GIRL
I LOVE MY GREEN BEANS
AND BROCCOLI AS WELL.



Spring starting off strong for Ellyn

THE OUR PLACE BENEFIT

BY: PK

My name is Patrick Kelly and I am going to attend the Our Place Benefit this year on April 5, 2025. I am excited to attend this year and look forward to celebrating with my friends. I plan to have a good time there. I am excited to see all of the volunteers there, too. I am glad we have the Our Place benefit because it is a special occasion for us to come together. I plan to eat pizza there and I really hope there will be some good desserts like chocolate chip cookies. I have always had a lot of fun at the annual benefits, so I always look forward to the Spring when it is time to go again. I will be there with my family and my friends and the crew! I will definitely have a good time there. We will also celebrate Bobby Russel's birthday because it happens to be his birthday that day. Maybe we will sing to him while we are there. Did I mention that I am excited and happy that it is coming up soon? I really am! Dinner is going to be amazing and then maybe we will dance the night away together. I wonder if Jamie Weller will dance at the benefit? I plan to be dancing, especially since it is on a Saturday. We will be coming together at a special location outside of Our Place, which is always interesting. I am also excited to see who else will be there. I cannot wait to hang with my peeps!



PK at the Our Place Benefit



**Graham with the
Parks & Rec Crew**

INTERVIEW WITH STAFF GRAHAM

BY: NATALIE

What is your favorite pet?

My cat, Lou.

What is your favorite movie?

The Royal Tenenbaums

Where do you live?

Evanston.

Whose your favorite musical artist?

Lord Huron.

What's your favorite sports team?

Toronto Maple Leafs.

VACATION TO FLORIDA

BY: MATT C.

On Saturday, we flew on United Airlines. We sat in first class. We ate breakfast on the plane. We picked up our bags. My brother got a minivan and then we drove to grandmas house. We took grandma to lunch at Tony Saccos Coal Oven Pizza at Estero, FL. I had Tony Saccos pasta and cheese pizza, personal size. We brought it home so I ate when I was on zoom on Monday. We went to Roy's Restaurant. I had pot stickers for dinner. I had Roy's wagyu beef sliders. We dropped grandma at her house and then we drove to Captiva. We had dinner at Captina Captiva. I had enchiladas for dinner. I also got grandma a key lime pie and we put candles on for her 92nd birthday. I had pasta on the way home and for a drink, I have coke zero. We flew into a storm. I also collected shells from the beach it was a fun vacation.



Matt and his grandma

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

BY: MICHAELA

I went to the Saturday Social this Saturday, and it was a lot of fun. Quinn and Spencer were there, along with a few other friends I hadn't seen in some time. We had pizza, gold coins, and cookies to eat. We also did St. Patrick's day trivia. One question asked about the meaning of a shamrock, and I guessed it right. It's for the Holy Trinity. I have a few cross ornaments on my Christmas tree so that's how I remembered it.

I can't believe my brother Danny's birthday is coming up. We have both lived for a long time. My brother's birthday is going to be at a brewery and its going to be a lot of fun. We're of age, don't worry. His friends are pretty nice and some other family members may be coming too. My sister in law, Mary, has her birthday coming up on May 4th. Mine is May 12th. I have a cousin, Shae, whose birthday is May 11th. So many spring birthdays; I love it! I love everything about Spring. The nice warm weather, not too hot and not too cold. Just like goldilocks!

CULTURE CORNER

OUR PLACE FOR REVIEW, RECIPES, SPECIAL INTEREST AND MORE

REVIEW OF SNOW WHITE

BY: MACEY

I know that all of you are familiar with the original motion picture Disney film Snow White and the Seven Dwarves. It's fun to fantasize about a prince sweeping you off your feet, but let me tell you something. In the reimagined Snow White is very different and also has a twist. Snow White is a young adult who's a kind natured person. She is also a brave warrior as she fights for her kingdom. She's also not afraid of the evil queen. She has hope in her heart which makes Snow White strong. She figures out a way to stop the infamous evil queen in her father's kingdom before the queen destroys the peace.



Snow White 2025

BLACKOUT POETRY

BY: SAM M.

I know who I am
Insistent on its choice.
The skin that I'm in
It carries like a promise.
Moving with so much gust and life
Still waters bubbling.
Have you witnessed your body?
So heartbreaking-its forgotten it's own voice.
I know who I am because I believe it.
Water slow and steady can turn rock

Like anxiety
Until gone.
Let your love for yourself be the water.
I am not wrong-I have been wronged.
I believe in the fire as much as the water
consumes.
I believe in my ability to thrive.
I am because someone survived for me to
be here today.
Marching for cleaner belongings.

