



OUR HAPPENINGS

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

MY FAVORITE FALL ACTIVITY

BY: JOSH

My favorite fall activity is to rake the leaves after they change colors and fall to the ground. In fact, I'll go for a hayride through the corn maze, get a flu shot, get a covid shot, pick apples off the apple tree, and have an apple cider donut. At the fall festival, I'll ride on the merry-go-round, the Ferris wheel, the roller coaster, the tilt-a-whirl, the zero gravity, the swings, the pirate ship, the starship and the Matterhorn. Then I'll spin the free wheel, play all kinds of games, take some candy, hear the music on stage, go down the slides, buy a pumpkin, carve a pumpkin and throw the seeds out in the art room. On Rosh Hashana, we'll pray and light the candles, bless on challah, spread honey on it, dip apples in honey and have matzah ball soup, brisket, broccoli and potatoes for shabbat dinner. Then we'll have honey cake for dessert. At services, we rise and read the Torah and then blow the shofar as we wear our tallit, so as the one on Yom Kippur. In my backyard my dad and I will build a sukkah, say our prayers and bless for shabbat dinner on sukkot. On October 16th, my parents will make chocolate peanut butter pie and this year we'll celebrate Zack's birthday in the sukkah.

AN INTERVIEW WITH STAFF JESSIE

BY: NATALIE F.

Hi Jessie. Do you have a dog?
Yes.

What do you do at Our Place?
I lead programs.

Do you like the Chicago Cubs?
Yes.

Do you boo the White Sox?
No.

What's your favorite color?
Green.

What is your favorite Disney movie?
My top three are Tangled, Frozen, and Encanto.

What is your favorite TV show?
The Great British Baking Show.

What's your favorite type of music?
Country.

What did you go to school for?
Therapeutic Recreation.

What did you look like when you were a baby?
Adorable.

LIFE UPDATES

BY: DEREK

I got a 119 in bowling today at Michigan Shores Club. It was on lane one.

My first day back in Our Place Press today.

I went shopping this weekend with my dad on Labor Day.

I am happy about the block party this weekend with my dad.

I am happy about Friday lunches with Julie.

MORE LIFE UPDATES

BY: DEREK

I went to the Wilmette block party on September 7th by myself, and I watched the Chicago Cubs game last night in my bedroom too.



Natalie and Jessie

RACE TO OUR PLACE

BY: JASON

The race to Our Place is coming up in a couple weeks! It's on Oct 6, 2024, from 11-1pm. It'll be my third or fourth time running in the race and I'll get a t-shirt with the OP logo on the front. The race will be held at Gilson beach again, just like it usually is. It'll be nice seeing everyone there: my staff members, friends, and family too. I am looking forward to it! It should be a good time and there will probably be a food truck selling hot dogs, chips, and drinks. I don't get anything from the truck, I just come for the race part.

WILLY WONKA MUSICAL

BY: KATIE L.

On Monday September 16th, I started at Special Gifts Theater. I went with my social worker. I started this year and am so excited to be in the performance on January 12th at a school in Winnetka. Come one, come all to the Willy Wonka Fall performance. This year, I am so excited to be in it. I have never been in it before and can't wait to be in it. My boyfriend's family will be there and I am going to bring snacks there for everyone to have. I can't wait for lines and role announcements this weekend!

MY WEEKEND

BY: ZACH

My weekend was great! I hung out with mom and my dad. We had cheeseburgers.

On Friday we had a party for CeCe. We also watched a movie.

On Saturday we went to Costco. We got plates and then we had dinner.

On Sunday we watched the Chicago Bears lose and we watched the Chicago Cubs win.

MY WEEKEND

BY: ZACH

My weekend was great! On Friday, I hung out with my mom and dad. Sara came over too. We had pasta and meatballs. The next day, we watched Wednesday, had popcorn, and went to bed.

WILL'S PLACE IMPROV NIGHT

BY: ANDREW

I work at Will's Place. The schedule for Friday and Saturday nights from 7 – 8 is Improv from the Second City Training Center for old famous celebrities like Steve Martin and Dana Carvey came over to do Improv with us. We did things that they would do from before when they did Second City for the SNL Group from all the way back with our old favorites including Michael Keaton, Diane Keaton and Drew Carey. I watch *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* and I remember from the last couple nights when Drew Carey would introduce the cast members before they start the show on Friday night. It is like going to work when I would go to work last year at night because I would be starting by now around 7. The best part was doing the things that we did, like when we did the Sketchbook Pop Up and we would raise money for things, like when we had our 1-year anniversary! One of our employees had his birthday at the same time while I was working. We were asked to be a part of the 4th Of July to do the Festival of Cultures. Those were the things that we did for fun including The Second City Training Center. We had fun doing it and I would come back to do it again.

BACK TO THE FUTURE BROADWAY MUSICAL

BY: ANDREW

Great Scott!!! The adventure begins with Marty McFly going to the past to fix it by bringing his family back together again. He had to go back to the year 1955. Going to that time was different. They were not together yet. Marty found young Doc to help bring his family back together again because Marty found his father in the diner. He remembers when they went to the place where it all started: the school. The same school where Marty's parents used to go to. That was when he saw this old photo of him and his family getting erased from the past. That was why he had to bring them back together again from getting erased from the past. Marty had to bring them back together again by mentioning the dance that they went to together: The Enchantment Under the Sea Dance. Here they finally got back together again, and then Marty went back to the past to find Doc. Then he sees Doc when they were just in The Twin Pines Mall at the end.

TRIP TO ALASKA

BY: ANDREW

We Went to Juneau to do the Alaska Tram. The coolest part was going up to the top of the mountain. I did take pictures of the mountain; the pine trees were on the left-hand side and then back down. We were planning to do it again, but instead we went to look for crab in the ocean. From where we were, there was an Alaskan King Crab moving around under the water in the ocean. It is possible to find crab when you know how to find it! The color of the crab is light orange. If you see it in the water, you would see orange moving around. That is how you find crab. After that, you would see the back claws, the front claws, and the spine. You could see the spine from all the way up with the shell shaped body. We went back on the cruise to do more fun things. We saw live entertainment with the actor from Lion King on Broadway. He put a twist into his music, talked about his life and childhood. When he sang, he sounded really soulful. Then that night we went to listen to live music. The live music from the cruise of the Sapphire Princess was the biggest highlight of the trip. When he did start the show he did Saturday Night, Rocket man, Your Song and Tiny Dancer, I'm Still Standing, and he wrapped it up with Crocodile Rock. It is like The Elton John Show with his music from the 70s. We went to do The Alaska White Pass Train. We were going up to the top and then to the bottom of the mountain in White Pass. This was where we panned for gold. We were taking pictures of the waterfall standing in front of it with the water falling down behind me.

SUMMER VACATION

BY: KATIE L.

This summer, I went with my family to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. In the summer, I went horseback riding. I had white horse named Snickers, like the candy bar! Noah, my friend in Pittsburgh, has the same name. I went to the movies and went out lunch and we stayed in some nights. We were in room number 877. We went out to dinner. Some nights we ordered Thai food and went downtown Jackson and shopped. We went to a rodeo on Saturday night. I went on a private plane with Martha, me, dad, and mom. We had so much fun and had a great time. I fell off one time from Snickers, but I got help. It scared me and I was crying. I thought I had a seizure, but I was dizzy and fell and hurt myself. The horse person was not put in front. My mom asked them so we packed our bags and backpack to go. I got lunch on the way before we got there. My aunt and uncle came with us. My uncle and I both take medicine for epilepsy.

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

BY: TRAVIS T.

On Friday, I went to work at the ACE hardware store. I have been sweeping the firewood on the carpet. I was taking my cookie break, then I went back to work. I swept again. My mom picks me up at 12:30 every Friday and drops me off home for lunch. I had a grilled cheese sandwich and chips, guacamole and salsa. I did my six miles on the bike and I took a shower. I dressed up for Game On! with Our Place. I saw my friends and I played Uno with volunteers. After Our Place, I came home with Frank and Francis. We had dinner! Guess what we had? We had sloppy joes and chips. I hung out with all of the guys at the house. We watched a little bit of news and saw what was going on around the world. I heard about VP Kamala Harris with her running mate Tim Waltz. I did my laundry, cleaned the toilets, and I dusted before going off to the Saturday Social. I had pizza and salad. We did some trivia and I sang along with my friends.

WORK UPDATE

BY: MATT C.

On Saturday, I worked at the Wilmette block party. I saw Katie L and Jamie Weller. We raised 225 dollars for Our Place. I got Homers ice cream. I also got to work with Natalie, Taylor and Bella. I worked hard. I also got a tattoo of the Cubs logo. I ate a cheeseburger and coke. We walked to Our Place at 5:30pm for the Saturday Social. I got a hat and t-shirt.

On Monday we went to CBS News Chicago studio. We got a tour from Chip's sister, Marie. We looked at the makeup room and at the studio with tv screens. I rode in Sam's van to CBS studio. When we came back to Our Place, we watched Marie on tv at 4:00pm. She did the news. I had fun and I gave her a hug. She interviewed me for the Our Place benefit.

On Tuesday and Thursday, Matt Naab worked on the 500 line at Overture. I worked at 9:00am to 12:00pm. We get paid every Thursday. Our break at overture is at 9:45am. We had our meeting at 9:00am. I had fun at overture and I worked hard. At overture I got corn. We made coworkers happy and I listened to my boss.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH

BY: MARY

On Sunday, September 8, I woke up. Then I had breakfast. Then my dad drove me to work. Then I started work. Then I had a break. I got Iced Pumpkin Cream Chai Grande Sugar in the Raw, Oatly Oatmilk, Pumpkin Cream Cold Foam Option modifier, and Spiced Apple Drizzle modifier. Then my dad picked me up. Then my dad took me to Hillside House for our potluck. I had a potluck lunch at the Hillside house with my friends. Then I had clay class with Grace. Then Grace dropped me off. Then I had dinner. Then I used my laptop. Then I went to bed.



Grace and Mary at pottery class.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH

BY: MARY

On Friday Sept 6, 2024, I woke up. Then I had breakfast at Starbucks. I got hot tea and egg bites. Then I had work. Then I had my break. I got Bacon & Gruyère Egg Bites and Pumpkin Cream Cold Brew Grande Pumpkin Cream Cold Foam Option modifier. Then I had lunch: pumpkin gluten free muffins we get at Trader Joe's. Then I had a meeting in person. Then my mom and I went to Dollop Coffee & The Hoosier Mama Pie Company. My mom and I share Chocolate Cream and raspberry. Then I had yoga with Bella. Then Brianna and Natalie arrived at the house. Then Brianna and Natalie and I left the house. Then Brianna and Natalie and I had dinner. I got Gluten-free pasta. Natalie had pasta and apple juice. Brianna had salad. Then Brianna and Natalie watched Little Chicken. I used my laptop. Then I Facetimed with my mom and dad. Then I went to bed.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH

BY: MARY

On Thursday, September 19, I woke up. Then I had breakfast. Then I went to Birdwatching & Gardening. Then I had Community Lunch. Then I had Small Talk. Then my mom picked me and Annie E up, then we carried on. Then me, my mom, and Annie E went to a food truck. Then me, my mom, and Annie E went to watch tv at my house. We watched Grey Anatomy and Modern Family. Then my mom and I dropped Annie off at her house. Then we left and said goodbye. Then we went home. Then I went to bed.



Annie and Mary

MY WEEKEND

BY: MARY

On Friday, September 20, I woke up. Then I had breakfast. Then I had work. Then I had my break. Then I had an appointment with my therapist, Emily, and with my mom. Then my mom and therapist and I went to the Dollop Coffee & The Hoosier Mama Pie Company because it was my last time seeing her in person because Emily moved back to Ohio. Then my mom and I gave gifts to Emily. Then my mom and I said goodbye. We went home. Then I had yoga. Then I had dinner. Then I watched TV. Then I had dinner. Then I walked with my mom. Then I went to bed.

On Saturday, September 21, I woke up. Then I had breakfast. Then I walked to Gail. Then I had a workout with Gail. Then I had facetime with Lisa. Then I had lunch. Then my mom and I did some errands. I got more lunch. Then I went to Target. Then we had dinner. Then I walked with my mom. Then I went to bed.

On Sunday, September 22, I woke up. Then I had breakfast. Then my dad drove to work. Then I had work. Then I had my break. Then I had lunch with Sean, Sean's mom (Natalie) and my mom. Then my mom and I went to Sunset. I saw a customer who works at Sunset. Then the worker talked to my mom and me about being a customer at Mariano's. Then we went home. Then I used my laptop. Then my dad and I went outside. Then we went home. Then I had clay class. Then I went home. Grace left. Then I used my laptop. Then I had dinner. Then my dad and I did exercises. Then I used my laptop. Then I went to bed.

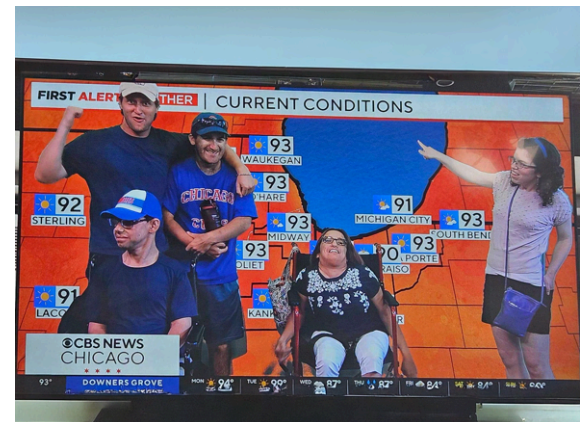
CBS STUDIO

BY: MICHAELA M.

Natalie, Taylor, Mitch, Matt W, Val, Hannah, and Annie went to CBS studios. Our Tour guide was Marie Saavedra. She is Chip's sister! She was pretty nice. She has experience in different news stations like Springfield, Missouri and Dallas, Texas. I like that she wants to have positive news, not just the hard, tragic ones. We also saw the makeup area. Sometimes they do it themselves, and sometimes the professionals do it depending on timing. We got to see the desks where they work and got upcoming news. Lot of them were on duty already. We got to see these really cool television sets it looked like we were in a mystery detective TV show. Then we saw the area where Marie hosts news and saw her film teasers for her 4:00 pm show. Then we got to pretend we were hosting the show and the weather on greenscreen. It was a fun event for the last community outing for Summer!



Everyone together at CBS News!



Live with Our Place

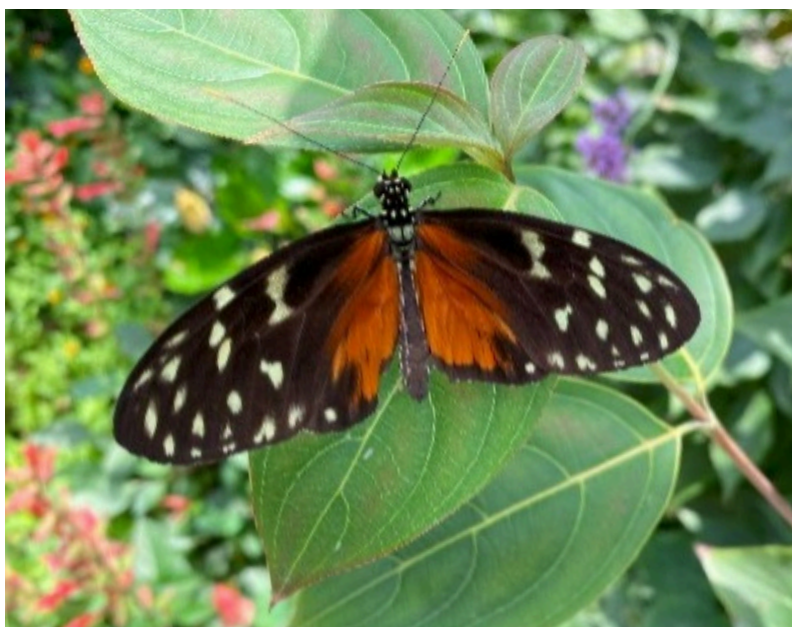


Green screen fun!

SUNDAY FUNDAY AT THE GARDENS

BY: SEAN

Yesterday, on a day that was quite cloudy until later on in the day, my mom and I met Mary and her mom at the Chicago Botanic Garden!! We met at around 12:30 pm at the entrance of the gardens and before we went anywhere, we went for lunch. My mom got a salad with strawberries in it, Mary and her mom shared tacos and a bowl of soup, and I got char grilled chicken sandwich with mozzarella cheese and lettuce on it and a small bag of chips. It was quite a delicious and enjoyable lunch! And a good start to our day there!! The four of us strolled to the rose garden and checked out the roses. We found some pretty roses and some good smelling roses too. After spending some time there, we went to the bonsai trees, where a bonsai show was going on, so it was busier in that area than normal. We checked out some interesting and quince bonsais. Also, during these things Mary kept wandering off on us but we eventually found her. After the bonsais, Mary and her mom decided it was time for them to leave so we walked to the entrance and said our goodbyes. But my mom and I's adventure wasn't quite done yet! There was one stop, one place I wanted to visit, the butterfly area!! So away we went, seeing a blue heron along the way. Eventually we arrived at the place and only had to wait a few minutes to get inside, where a plethora of beautiful and colorful butterflies awaited us. After taking a couple loops through the building, seeing all sorts of butterflies, and taking a lot of photos, it was time to go. Overall, it was a lovely and fun day!! I have always loved going to the Chicago Botanical Garden and seeing my friend Mary. I can't wait to go back and explore some more!!



Butterflies at the garden

WEEKEND UPDATE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

BY: MATT C.

On Friday I was golfing with Ron Don. Also, the other guy's Jack M and Jack Z. It was the 24th Annual Memorial golf tournament. We had a silent auction and for dinner they had mostaccioli, chicken nuggets, and meatballs. I drove the golf cart. We got an umbrella and bag of goodies. I had a great day. My parents came to watch me golf.

On Friday night, Lake Forest beat Warren 38-7. Lake Forest High School are 3-0 so far in the season. I watched the football games on NFHS network. Lake Forest high school are traveling to Zion Benton High School for the football game. I hope we will win the game.

On Saturday I worked at Winnetka Farmer's Market. I got 15 people to sign up for the Our Place Race. I also saw Annie E there!

CULTURE CORNER

OUR PLACE FOR REVIEW, RECIPES, SPECIAL INTEREST AND MORE

FLOWERS

BY: NATALIE F.

I like tulips, roses and sunflowers.

People can smell them, and bees use them.

Bees land on them for nectar.

They are colorful.

REVIEW OF BAD MONKEYS

BY: MACEY

I have only seen one episode so far of the new tv series Bad Monkeys, but I'll tell you about the trailer. I'm debating how I feel about this new comedy/murder mystery show, and also to not give away any spoilers of any kind. From what I saw in the trailer, I thought it looked like a really funny murder mystery show and the cast are hilariously funny. Good choices for sure! I'm questioning the pilot a little, but I'll still keep watching. I think it's promising! Now I will tell you the main plot of the show. Bad Monkey is about a detective who is trying to solve a murder case about a fisherman and the tables have turned. He is one of the witnesses of the crime and still being able to solve the case. I don't know what's going to happen next, but I think it's something good!

A WIZARD'S BEGINNING

BY: SEAN

A spark of something magical called to me on Friday. A world of wizards and adventure. So, to the internet I first went, typed the name of the game calling my name I did. To the website I soon arrived. And shortly after, the download began. Only a little while later, the world was ready to play so I dove in, headfirst. I created my character, an ice wizard named Jack Frost. We start with a tutorial that introduces us to this world and the mechanics of the game. Soon we will be wandering the many streets, nooks, and crannies of the mighty Wizard City and Ravenwood Wizard School where we battle many different creatures and beings. All of this is happening as Jack tries to uncover what is plaguing Wizard City and beyond! This is only the beginning of the great quest that I am still on and will be on for who knows how long. The quest of Wizard101!!! At the moment, he is at level 16 and making progress!! And I can't wait to see how this adventure continues!!