



OUR PLACE PRESS

JUNE 2025

OUR HAPPENINGS

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

MOVING TO EDISON PARK

BY: MICHAELA

I moved from my old apartment building in Evanston, Illinois to Edison Park. Edison Park is a mix of suburbs and also Chicago on the other side. I'm living in a house with my family, my brother Danny, my sister-in-law Mary, and my nephew. We are near the O'Hare airport. We also had Benison's bakery in Evanston, Illinois. I had a M&M cookie and Mocha from my old local Starbucks. Then, Danny and I went grocery shopping at the nearest Mariano's. It was so confusing and overwhelming. One person scanned everybody.

For Father's Day, we went to Cooper's Hawk and Winery. I had a Bloody Mary and breakfast chilaquiles I believe. I had Sangria at brunch. My nephew had the sunrise breakfast on the kid's menu, which was basically eggs. Mary had hash browns.



Aunt Michaela and her nephew Tommy

MY FAVORITE FUN THINGS ABOUT CHICAGO

BY: ELLYN

1. Wrigley Field, home of the Cubs
2. My favorite player #7 Swanson
3. And I like to eat soft pretzels with cheese
4. I also like to go to Jenny's Ice Cream
5. I also like to go Navy Pier
6. I also like to go Lincoln Park Zoo
7. And I also like to go mini golf
8. And I also like to go on boat tours and bus tours.
9. I belong in Chicago, my hometown.
10. It's more fun and it's clean
11. I love my hometown
12. I also love my botanical garden
13. I also like my custard at Culvers.
14. That's my taste of Chicago.

CUBS GAME

BY: NAT

I went to the Cubs game with my mom, dad, and my two brothers. Alex has a girlfriend. They played the Pirates. The Cubs won. I had fun and went home on Saturday, Sunday, or Friday. On Sunday, I celebrated Father's Day at my house. We ate dinner and gave my dad cards. We drank drinks. I went home and went to bed.



Nat supporting the Cubs

A TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY

BY: WES

I went to New York city to visit my family. I saw both my sisters. I took an airplane. It was a long trip. When I got there, I went out for tacos. I also ate carrots. My sister, Claire, graduated! I felt good. We went to a German restaurant to eat dumplings, noodles, and veggies. For dessert, I had ice cream. I saw the Statue of Liberty and Times Square. It was cool. There were a lot of people. I saw the beach. I went for walks. I saw art which I liked. My last meal there was pasta. It was good. I took a car and a plane home. I had a good time in NYC!

MY WEEKEND

BY: KATIE L.

I went to Libertyville on Saturday with Martha. I went on all the dizzy rides. We went in the afternoon. I played games, won prizes, did karaoke, and sang two songs. I did ASL as I sang. I had so much fun. I ate a hot dog with hot peppers and onions for lunch and drank lemonade. I played games, walked a lot, and bought some cool stuff. I am really excited to meet this guy that connected me with my job at Park School. His mother is hard of hearing. She might use sign language. I told him that I work as a sign language assistant with deaf ED.

MY FRIDAY

BY: MARY

I went to work. Then my mom picked me up from work. Then my mom took me to Starbucks. Then I had lunch. Then I went to Our Place. We saw Lilo & Stitch. I gave it 5 stars. Then my dad picked me up. Then we went home. Then I had dinner. Then we saw Counting Crows at Ravinia. We met Katie.



Katie, Mary, and Lori

NEW BUFFALO, MICHIGAN

BY: ANDREW

When we went there this time, it was 6:30 am. When we got there, it was around 5:30. When we got on to the road to get to Michigan, it was the best. My brother and I listened to really good music, like the new Unnatural Rascal album. The car ride was the best when we went to New Buffalo with the music. It was exactly how I had pictured it when we got there. We finally made it to Beer Church for breakfast. Eddie got the breakfast pizza. We got the Communion Toast Flight with brie cheese, dark cherry compote, avocado bagel seasoning, balsamic drizzle, goat cheese, and strawberries. Then, we went to the beach where we walked the bridge and then we went to the Four Winds Casino where I won \$12.00. That was the best. The best part was when we walked the trails. It was exactly like when we went to the nature trail preserve in 2023. It reminds me of the times when there was great weather. It was exactly like going back there again because of the bushes and the trees. It was the best. We went to Greenbush for lunch. That was when I first saw the Turkey Bacon Melt on the menu. I didn't know that it was there before. It was the best.

RACE TO AVENUES

BY: JASON

This past weekend on Saturday was the Walking with Avenues. It was a terrific day. They held it at the high school at Maine South in Park Ridge. We saw a bunch of people there. Some of my friends were there too. We got our T-shirts and had food such as donuts, bagels, granola bars, goldfish crackers, soda, drinks, water, and ice cream. It was all so good. As soon as the race started, we began the walk. It was probably a 2-3 mile long run. I did sweat a little bit as I was running, but it wasn't so bad. They cheered us on as well. When the race was done, I had some strawberry ice cream afterwards and a glazed doughnut. Before the race, I said hi to people who were there. It was my first time doing the event with them. It was a nice race. I'm glad my stepmom and I were able to go.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

BY: JOSH

Last weekend on Memorial Day Our Place was closed, so we shopped at the Wilmette Farmers Market and went home. Then mom brought hamburger meat packages, raw chicken breast, corn, hot dogs, potato chips and watermelon from Sarah's Tent in Skokie. Then dad and I mowed the lawn in our front yard and I swept the sidewalk with all that grass and picked up all the sticks and drank lots of water. After that I took a short nap in my bedroom and had cheesy bean burritos for dinner. Last Monday, Emily and Jared visited us and my dad and I also set up lawn chairs and we all watched the parade. I took pictures of drivers in vehicles, a small marching band, boy scouts, girl scouts, and everybody on Lake Avenue. Little kids handed out those American flags and a Frio Gelato coupon so I put it in my wallet and I helped my dad put those chairs away in the garage and helped pour the soil into the big plant bucket and I watered the soil on my deck. Then I picked up sticks again in my backyard and drank water so I stayed hydrated and took another nap. After naptime I sliced some pickles and dad cooked hamburgers, chicken and hot dogs on the grill so we all had a barbecue. In fact, I had a hamburger with sliced round pickles, grilled chicken with barbecue sauce, corn on the cob, a hot dog with long sliced pickles and pickled potato chips for dinner. Then I had watermelon for dessert because Jared cut up some watermelon and packed it in a glass container and they went home to Glenview.

TRIP TO SPRINGFIELD

BY: ZACH

I went to Springfield. I went to see Abraham Lincoln and I saw Abraham Lincoln. We went to see Lincoln's eyes and also saw Ghosts of the Library. I also had dinner and shrimp and steak. I went to see Abraham Lincoln's house. I also saw Abraham Lincoln's bed. He was shot in Ford's Theatre by John Wilkes Booth. I saw Lincoln, Willie, Ted, Mary Todd, and Nancy. Lincoln was so tall. I saw Abraham Lincoln's house and saw his bedroom and bathroom and table and breakfast. I also saw Lincoln's log cabin. I also touched Lincoln's family. Abraham Lincoln was 6'4 and wore a top hat. He loved Mary Lincoln.

MY FRIENDS AT OP

BY: P.K.

Natalie is funny and hilarious. She likes her own music. She likes to talk about her family history.

Blake is a good friend. Blake is funny. She likes to do dance crew on Thursdays, ha ha ha. Blake is hilarious. Blake likes to have fun. Blake likes to play her own music and dance.

Zach is funny and cool and silly. He makes me laugh. What's up, Zach? Zach likes to sing.

Grounded was fun and I'm glad I had fun with Barb and Roxie. And we did meditation and watched a few videos. Margaret was there and I'm glad Mary came. I'm sad Our Place Press is almost over but I'm happy it's almost summer. This summer session, I have Our Place Press, bowling with Lucy and Barb and sometimes Brian. I'm excited for the summer session!

Natalie likes her own sports, dogs, and playing on her phone (sometimes but not all the time).

Natalie, Sam M, and Katie L like music, singing, and dancing. I like music sometimes.

Frank likes to listen to "Under the Sea" during karaoke at the Saturday socials. On Wednesday nights Frank goes home with Jamie.

Margaret is hilarious. She likes to dance sometimes. She likes to do Zumba. Margaret likes to pick different songs.



Sam and PK



Natalie and PK at Music Makers



PK, Blake, and Sean

MUSIC IN THE PARK - THE PRECURSOR TO SOMETHING BIGGER

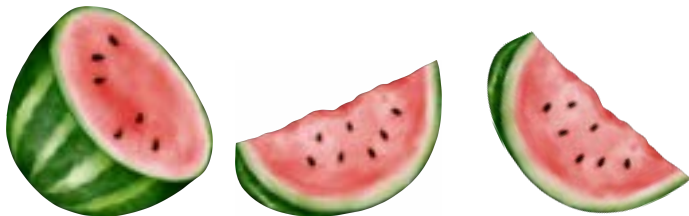
BY: SEAN

Over the weekend, on Sunday June 15th, my mom and I checked out some live music playing at Mallinckrodt Park, which is right around the corner from my house. It's a part of the towering recreation building. I've gone over to that park for many walks throughout the four seasons and many years of living at my current house. The weather was lovely, comfortable with a light breeze. It was honestly pleasant. We walked over and found some nice grass to sit down on. There were many other people at the park too, waiting for the music to start. We only had to wait like 5 minutes or so until the music started to play. There was a guitarist, pianist, and a drummer who was singing as well!! It was enjoyable to listen to. The vibe of the music was jazzy with a little funk. Alas, it was a wonderful experience. They played and sounded really good!! I am glad I went down to the park for this!! A big thank you to my mom for seeing a sign at the park mentioning this musical event!! And this was a precursor to something bigger, a precursor to my Lindsey Stirling concert at Ravinia, June 26th!! It's practically right around the corner and I am so excited for it!! I can't wait, and of course, stay tuned!!!

WATERMELON

BY: ELLYN

I love my watermelon.
It's a sweet color.
And my favorite pattern.
Watermelon sugar high.
Watermelon is my favorite summer fruit.
Watermelon is sweet.
Watermelon sugar high is
My favorite song.
I love the color of watermelon..
It's refreshing and juicy happy summer.
Watermelon EOS is my favorite lip balm.
Watermelon sorbet is my favorite.



RACE TO AVENUES

BY: JASON

This past weekend on Saturday was the Walking with Avenues. It was a terrific day. They held it at the high school at Maine South in Park Ridge. We saw a bunch of people there. Some of my friends were there too. We got our T-shirts and had food such as donuts, bagels, granola bars, goldfish crackers, soda, drinks, water, and ice cream. It was all so good. As soon as the race started, we began the walk. It was probably a 2-3 mile long run. I did sweat a little bit as I was running, but it wasn't so bad. They cheered us on as well. When the race was done, I had some strawberry ice cream afterwards and a glazed doughnut. Before the race, I said hi to people who were there. It was my first time doing the event with them. It was a nice race. I'm glad my stepmom and I were able to go.

CULTURE CORNER

OUR PLACE FOR REVIEW, RECIPES, SPECIAL INTEREST AND MORE

THE LIFE OF CHUCK

BY: ANDREW

On Friday, we went to see Stephen King's story adaptation and brand-new film *The Life Of Chuck*. It is about him and his whole life from top to bottom. Chapters one, two, and three are about how it all started. Before, his life was happy when he went into his happy place. He was well known to the public. He was a good dancer back then. Until that one day in the present, Chuck wasn't really his name. It was really Charles Chuck Krantz. Throughout the years of his life when everybody kept saying "Thanks Chuck", Charles lived his life in the past, present, and future. He used to remember what his life was like in a blink of an eye. When he was inspired by music, he would dance into the night. He was well known to everyone from walking into everybody's lives. Nobody knows what he was up to or what he was doing all that time. That was why he was this really cool guy that we all know of.



The Life of Chuck (2024)

AVATAR: THE LAST AIRBENDER

BY: MICHAELA

Avatar: The Last Airbender is about a world divided into earth, water, fire, and air. The fire nation is the most powerful in their world. There are brother and sister Katara and Sokka that are part of the air-bending community but they don't get along yet. Katara is the last air bender of her community and she needs help to learn. They discovered Aang, who has no memories of his past lives. He can air bend without any trouble. He was stuck in the ice for a hundred years but looks and acts like a twelve-year-old child. He has a pet Bison who can fly. Aang will teach Katara air-bending. Little do they know that the fire nation is planning something.



Avatar: The Last Airbender

POETRY CORNER

OUR PLACE FOR POETRY

'POINT OF NO RETURN'

BY: SEAN

Welcome to the ice storm within the inferno
How did we end up like this?
When did we go too far
And reach the point of no return
Blood spilt in the streets
As the innocent are attacked and arrested
While the guilty continue to roam free
Everything at once, upside down
Are we truly at the mercy of one who wants
to wear the crown?
How did we end up like this?
When did we go too far
And reach the point of no return
Point of no return
The world churns
Oh how it burns
And when we wake up
Do we see through all the lies
Is it too late to prevent the shadow of the
looming war
Will we make it through another day to see
the light of the stars
How did we end up like this?
When did we go too far
And reach the point of no return
The point of no return
Point of no return
When the falling sun returns again
Is it too late to turn around
Before we reach the point of no return

'A STEP TOO FAR'

BY: SEAN

Sinking ships
Crossing bridges
Have I reached a limit too far?
War in my veins
Blood in the streets
Have I gone a step too far?
What if you were me and I was you
Would you hold my hand or let it go?
Here after and never more, it's a twist of
the story. Not a bore
The truth of you, of me. Racing
relentlessly to the core
And I am left wondering, it is not enough?
Or have I gone a step too far?
Have I gone a step too far?



Sean the poet

'A RISING LIGHT'

BY: SEAN

The life in the next
What was there
Is not anymore
The after in the beginning
What lies ahead
Is never more
The gifts you gave
Shall never be forgotten
Hold them dear
Cherish with love and light
It's like being in between
The colors of bold and bright
You lit the world
From a tiny spark
To a raw untamed smoldering fire
You raged, raged, raged
Into the rising light
You did not go gentle
Into that good night
This is you
At the core
Never less, always more
You raged, raged, raged
Into the rising light
Into the rising light

'Dedicated to Sam Anderson, a lovely friend at Our Place.
Always here, in our hearts'

IN LOVING MEMORY OF SAM ANDERSON

