



# OUR PLACE PRESS

NOVEMBER 2024

## OUR HAPPENINGS

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

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### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH

BY: MARY

I had an egg for breakfast. My mom drove me to Central Station Coffee & Tea. Then Annie E and I went to Central Station Coffee & Tea. I had an asiago bagel toasted with cream cheese and a chai latte with oat milk. I got a large. It was not too hot. Annie got a large latte with whole milk and a chocolate chip muffin. Then, we walked to Our Place. Next, I had artist workshop. I painted. Then, I went to community lunch with Graham, Sean, Dan, Alex, Matt, Becca and Jamie at Noodles & Company. Then we went back to Our Place. Then Penny and I shared a snack. Then I had Our Place Press. Then my dad picked me up. Then I had dinner with my dad. My mom had a meeting. Then I went to bed.

### WEEKEND UPDATE

BY: MATT C.

On Saturday, Geneva High School beat Lake Forest 49-14 at the football game. Lake Forest is out of the playoffs after this loss. Lake Forest had a great season.

On Saturday night, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., I participated in the Our Place social online with Staff Sam. We played Thanksgiving trivia. I saw Jason, Harrison, and Tyler. I had fun.

I am thankful for my choir director, Melanie. I am excited about the AMASE choir concert. I hope it will be everything we hoped for!

On Sunday, my family drove home from Michigan. For lunch, we went to McDonald's. I had two cheeseburgers, french fries, a pineapple smoothie, and some cookies.

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# THANKSGIVING WEEK

BY: MICHAELA

I can't believe it's already Thanksgiving week! I have the Our Place Thanksgiving Feast to go to on Wednesday. I also had brunch with Ann and Zoe- my Oak Park family. Then I am going to see the movie Wicked with my brother and sister-in-law. I loved the original Wicked on Broadway, I saw it three times when it was in Chicago! Then, on Thursday, we will be having Thanksgiving dinner. Not a lot of family are coming, but it'll be me, my brother, sister-in-law, and nephew. We are going to have turkey that my brother smokes on the barbecue. We will have sweet potatoes (my nephew loves those)! We will also be having green bean casserole and stuffing. I love traditional Thanksgiving food.

## GRATITUDE TO THE HELPFUL STAFF AT DENGEOs!

BY: MARY

Dear Tiffany, We are thankful for you. I like talking with you. Thank you for helping me!

**Tiffany**

Thoughtful  
Independent  
Funny  
Friendly  
Active  
Nice  
Youthful

# THANKSGIVING FEAST

BY: JOSH

This weekend, I went to the Center for Enriched Living and I shopped at Wal-Mart for soda pop in Wheeling with Carlos and the other group. Then, I had fried chicken, steamed vegetables, macaroni and cheese, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and rice for lunch at the Thanksgiving feast. After that, I played bingo with Rob in the lounge and won prizes. I also did a scavenger hunt in the hall and I drew a turkey and glued feathers, a beak, and feet on him. Then, I celebrated Christian, Steve, and Tony's birthday in the kitchen. I had a vanilla cupcake for dessert with orange frosting on top. Also, after that, I took a bike ride in the gymnasium. Then, my mom picked me up and took me home. I took a nap upstairs in my bedroom and I had dinner at the Saturday Social. After that, I played Thanksgiving trivia, had a mini cupcake for dessert, and did karaoke. Yesterday, I threw out some old food, washed the kitchen's dining room fridge drawer, and tidied up the dining room a little bit. Then, my parents shopped at Heinen's in Glenview, and I carried some groceries into the house. I raked the leaves in my yard while my mom baked brownies and took another nap. For dinner, I had cheesy bean burritos and a brownie alamode for dessert.

## WEEKEND FUN AND THANKSGIVING PLANS

BY: KATIE L.

This weekend, I did a lot of things. I wrote my Christmas list and I wrote a letter to Santa Claus. I also got my nails done. For Thanksgiving, I am going to Pittsburgh this Tuesday with my mom, dad, and my caretaker, Martha. We will be going to the Pittsburgh Penguins hockey game. We will take a private jet there. We will be going to my aunt's house for Thanksgiving Day dinner. I am really excited to see them.

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# LETTER TO THE NORTH POLE

BY: KATIE L.

Dear Santa, I am going to be on the nice list. I am making this Christmas list for you. I am 34 years old. I believe in you. I am helping deaf students learn sign language. I am an assistant's aide. I am working really hard at Park School. I am really involved in the special needs sign language program. They were there for me through my epilepsy. They understand me a lot because they understand what I'm going through, just like them. I am being very good this year!



# THANKSGIVING FEAST AT OUR PLACE

BY: JASON

Last week, Wednesday was the annual Thanksgiving feast at Our Place. It was very good. I had a great time seeing everyone there in person. First, we prepared the food. There was turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, mac n cheese, bread rolls with butter, salad, and cranberry sauce. Before we ate, we prayed for each other and for a nice meal. Pat's family came online to wish us a happy Thanksgiving. We all enjoyed our food, and after, we had dessert too. It was all so delicious! I brought in cupcakes since it was also my birthday that day! Everyone wished me a happy birthday, which was very thoughtful. Then, after that, we got our stuff and headed home. It was great seeing my friends and staff members. I enjoyed myself very much!



**Photos from the Our Place Thanksgiving Feast!**



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# THANKSGIVING DECORATIONS

BY: JOSH

This weekend, my mom and dad took Zach to work at Heinen's in Glenview. Then they dropped me off at The Center of Enriched Living in Riverwoods. Then I went to Culver's in Lincolnshire. I had a beef pot roast sandwich, coleslaw, and a bottle of water for lunch. After that, I walked to the Vernon Area Public Library. I played bean bag toss, went bowling, destroyed all the boxes, and balanced on stepping stones. Afterward, I picked them up neatly and colored a turtle's shell for arts and crafts. Then I went back to the bus. We stopped at Target in Vernon Hills, and I got almonds. Then, we went back to CEL. After that, my dad picked me up and we went to the Extra Space Storage locker in Glenview. I helped him put away the Halloween decorations and then we put the Thanksgiving decorations into the car. Then, I took a nap in my bedroom and had dinner at the Saturday Social. We played Thanksgiving trivia, had sugar cookies, and sang karaoke. On Sunday, I raked the leaves and took a little water break to stay hydrated. Then I had pesto pasta for dinner and an almond brownie for dessert.

## AMASE CHOIR CONCERT

BY: MATT C.

We did a great job at our choir concert! My favorite song we sang was Lean on Me. We had refreshments after the concert. I saw Katie's mom and dad. I saw the rest of the Our Place groups that came to watch us and support us. My favorite snack at the concert was a cookie. Our director was Melanie, and she did great. I was tired after the concert, but happy!

## I'M THANKFUL FOR

BY: SEAN W.

- My mom, my cat Darwin, and my sister
- Lindsey Stirling, for who she is as a person and her music ^\_^
- Our Place
- A roof above my head
- My health
- The wonderful online communities I am a part of
- Vic Torrie and her community
- Catherine LaSalle and her community
- My friends ^\_^



**The AMASE Choir Concert**

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# TRIP TO CENTRAL WISCONSIN

BY: WES G.

Recently, I rode in a car to central Wisconsin with Mom, Dad, and Dee Dee, our family dog! We went to visit our family cottage. While we were there, we walked around a small lake and took a scenic drive up a small mountain to enjoy all of the beautiful fall colors. While we were there, I enjoyed listening to vinyl records. I enjoy Broadway tunes like Sound of Music, Oklahoma, and Camelot. I also enjoy listening to vinyl records from bands like The Beatles and The Mama's and Papa's. We ate great food all weekend, like the breakfasts my dad made for us in the mornings. We even got to go to some of my favorite restaurants. We went to a steak house and to A&W.

I have a funny story about this weekend trip to add. On Sunday, my dog Dee Dee escaped from the cottage and was running around on the loose! My mom, dad, and a couple of neighbors were out searching for her. While they were out, Dee Dee came home on her own. I opened the door right up for her and let her in. When my family came back, they found me hanging out on the couch with Dee Dee. It's a pretty funny story.

# MY THANKSGIVING

BY: MATT C.

On Thanksgiving, we went to my brother's house in Michigan. I helped peel the potatoes. I also watched the Chicago Bears play the Detroit Lions. The Bears lost 23-20. They fired the head coach after that loss. I helped lay out the board for appetizers. We had pigs in a blanket and a cheese board. For dinner, we ate turkey, carrots, green beans, pumpkin pie, and apple tart. We were stuffed! I beat my brother James in the NBA on Xbox. I had a great time!

# THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

BY: ZACH

My Thanksgiving weekend was great! We had some guests over. It was Bob, Cathy, Michael, Danny, Steve, Roger, Chloe, Ian, and Samantha. I hung out with Annie and we went bowling. After that, we went to see a movie. We saw Wicked in 3D. I got some popcorn and lemonade. The movie was great! 10 stars!

# MY WEEKEND

BY: TRAVIS

On Friday morning, I woke up to start my day. I took a shower and got dressed for work. After that, I had some coffee and peanut butter toast. Then, I went to work at the ACE hardware store. I helped by sweeping the leaves. I had my break and ate a cookie. After that, I came home for lunch. I ate a ham sandwich with chips and salsa. Then I came to Our Place, and I got to watch the Santa Clause movie. This Wednesday at Our Place, we will have our Thanksgiving feast. I am going to help with the turkey.

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# MY THANKSGIVING

BY: WES G.

I drove to Washington, D.C., with my mom and dad to celebrate Thanksgiving. My older sister lives there. We also celebrated with my aunt and uncle. We had a huge dinner for Thanksgiving! We had turkey, stuffing, potatoes, casseroles, salad, and cranberries. I also ate pumpkin pie and chocolate turkey cookies for dessert. On our trip, we were able to eat out at a lot of restaurants. We had Indian, Greek, and Italian food. We also got to go to a karaoke place and sang a lot of songs with my family. We sang pop songs, country songs, and Christmas ones too! We also visited the U.S. Botanic Garden to see the Christmas Holiday display. There was a model train outdoors. Inside, there were small models of D.C. landmarks like the U.S. Capitol, Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument made out of plants and seeds! All the trees, indoors and out, had Christmas trees decorated with lights. Also, on our trip, we saw the movie Wicked. I really enjoyed it. I had a big tub of popcorn and a blue Icee during the movie. We also stopped by my sister's apartment so I could see her pet cat. I had a great trip with my family!

## THANKSGIVING AND MY REVIEW OF 'WICKED'

BY: NATALIE

For Thanksgiving, I went to a family member's house. I ate food and desserts and had drinks, too. My family celebrated with me. We watched football, sat down and relaxed, and chatted with my cousins. There was turkey and pumpkin pie. We said cheers and drank. We also said what we were thankful for. I am thankful for Jessie, my mom, and my dad.

I also saw Wicked. The movie is about Glinda, who was played by Ariana Grande. The witch was Cynthia Erivo. They were friends. She was green. She was happy. Glinda has light skin and blonde hair. They both sing. There was a talking goat who worked as a teacher. He is alive but they took him away! There was a wizard, he was good. The monkeys had wings. The munchkins talked to Glinda and they celebrated. I enjoyed the movie!

## SHOWING GRATITUDE

BY: ANDREW

I am thankful for Jessie because if it wasn't for her, we wouldn't have Rhythm Circe and Pound Fit. It's the same as how I remember it from last time. I also remember songs like We Will Rock You and We are the Champions. There are two guys that sing that song, they are wearing sunglasses and Lakers jerseys doing pound fit. They even use glow in the dark drumsticks!



***Natalie at Wicked!***



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# CULTURE CORNER

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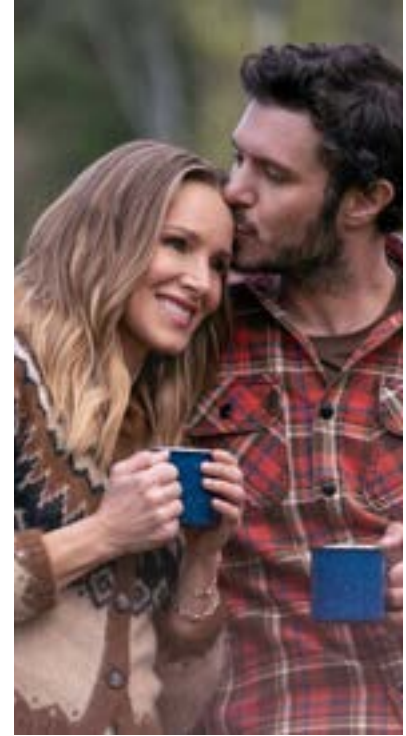
OUR PLACE FOR REVIEW, RECIPES, SPECIAL INTEREST AND MORE

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## A REVIEW OF "NOBODY WANTS THIS"

BY: MACEY

I've started watching a new show on Netflix called Nobody Wants This. I just watched it last night, and it stars Kristen Bell from the show The Good Place. She also voice acted as Elsa in Frozen and Frozen 2. I'll tell you what I think about the trailer that tells you the story of the show series. The show Nobody Wants This is about a podcaster who has her own podcast show about creating healthier romantic relationships. She goes to a friend's dinner party. She meets this super cute Rabbi even though they are from two different worlds. Opposites attract I suppose! I don't really know much else about the show yet, but what I do know is that it made me laugh and has some adult humor. It also has a good amount of comedy which is honestly because of the really cool cast members that make the show funny.



*Nobody Wants This*



*Robinhood*

## A REVIEW OF "ROBINHOOD"

BY: MACEY

I've watched this movie since I was a child. Even as I grew up through the years, I still loved it, even as a 25 year old adult in 2024. I will tell you about it in this review that I'm currently writing. Don't worry, I'll explain it as a movie trailer and without any spoilers. The movie starts with a young adult fox named Robinhood. He is an outlaw thief who steals from the rich and feeds the poor. Even though he's a smart and clever fox, he is also a little cocky and naïve. So, the best is Little John, but they mean well. Soon, there is danger in their town, and they know what they have to do to protect their home and every animal and critter in the village. Robinhood has come face to face with the sheriff and Prince John. It's a fight to the death!

# COBRA KAI PART 2

BY: MICHAELA

Cobra Kai Part 2 is coming on November 15th. There have been a few sneak peeks. Like iron dragons? Really? Why do the villains always have to be reptiles? It's getting on my nerves! Zara looks pretty cool, though. She is a karate influencer. Azel seems tough but is really a softie. Robby is losing his fight because he became obsessed with Tory and began to drink a lot. Both of his parents are alcoholics, he is going to get himself in trouble. Miguel is also jealous of Robby because he thought that he should have gotten the captainship title. Hawk and Demetri are still fighting. Daniel is too focused on the truth of what happened to Mr. Miyagi. Johnny and Daniel still do not see eye to eye. Honestly, it seems a little repetitive of the original Karate Kid, but not good. Devon is also getting on my nerves. She cheated and is now going to see the consequences of her actions. It was not a surprise that the iron dragons were silver. Iron is a metal, and metal is silver.



*Cobra Kai Part 2*

## A REVIEW OF 'LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS'

BY: ANDREW



*Little Shop of Horrors*

We got ready and wore fancy clothes to the Moretti's in Skokie. I got grilled chicken alfredo, it was good. After that, we went to see a show at The Northshore Theatre. We saw Little Shop of Horrors. The introduction song was the same: Skid Row by Downtown. John Belushi, from the movie version, was also in the show. It was a good performance.

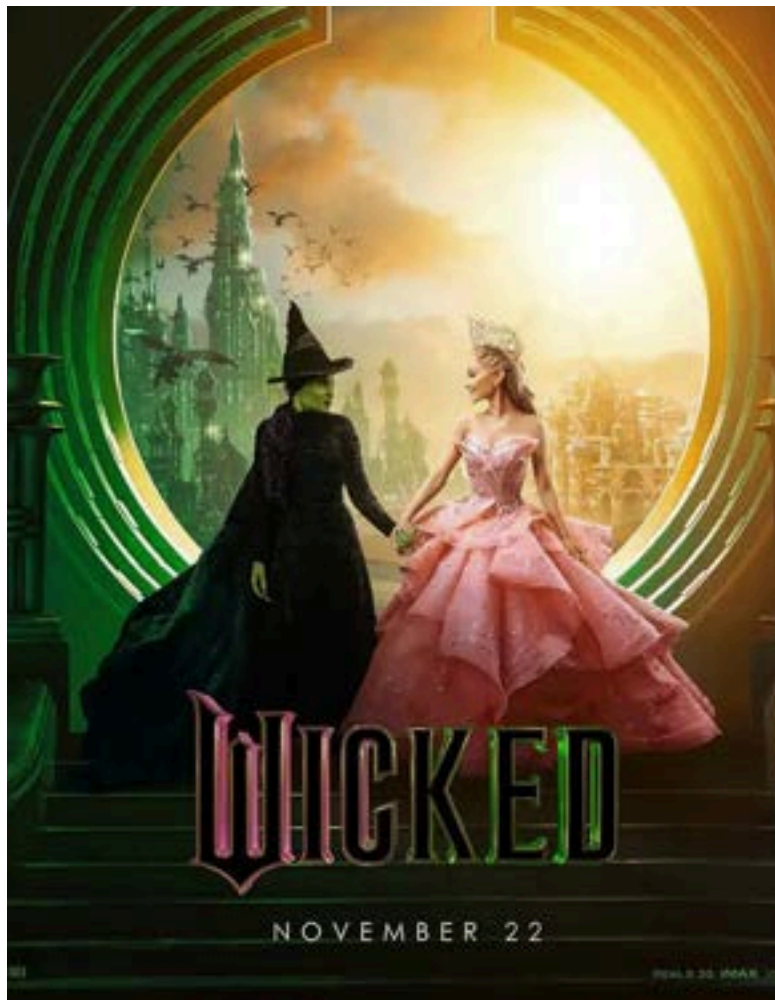


# A REVIEW OF 'WICKED'

BY: MARY

The actors are Cynthia Erivo, Karis Musongole, Ariana Grande, Jonathan Bailey, Michelle Yeoh, Jeff Goldblum, Ethan Slater, Marissa Bode, Cesily Collette Taylor, Peter Dinklage, Luisa Guerrerio, Bowen Yang, Keala Settle, Colin Michael Carmichael, Aaron Teoh, Andy Nyman, Courtney-Mae Briggs, Sharon D. Clarke. Madeline Wilson was the movement artist for Dulcibear and Jenna Boyd and Sarah Mardel were the movement artists for Wolf Doctor.

I liked this movie. I give it 5/5 stars!



*Wicked*

# A REVIEW OF 'WICKED'

BY: ANDREW

Wicked was great! It had beautiful colors, great backgrounds with a lot of contrast, and a bold and captivating story of how The Wizard of Oz first started. The first witch, Glinda, is the good witch from the north. She was played by Ariana Grande. The other witch in the movie is Glinda. The musical numbers brought back memories of the past. Jeff Goldblum came out behind the curtain as Oz. I loved the movie. It was great. I especially liked the song "Defying Gravity". After that, we went to Kura Sushi for dinner.



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# THE LITTLE FIREFLY

BY: SEAN W.

Do you remember  
The day you stumbled upon the little  
ember  
All alone, off the beaten track  
You reach for the forever-glowing light  
Will you go through the unrelenting  
motion of determinedness?  
Or will you face the hesitation of the  
freezing fear?

And as you are about to touch the little  
ember  
With its tiny wings, it speaks  
'O, little firefly. Let us guide you into the  
night.  
The light, blinding, bold and bright  
Erupts all around, shattering your being  
Sending all your fractured pieces  
Scattering through the tangled web of the  
forest thy nature weaves

Now, simply a shade of your former self  
You find only one way to move forward  
Down a road of golden yellow leaves  
Where the little glowing orb awaits  
It beckons to you  
'O, little firefly. Let us guide you in the night.  
'O little firefly. Let us gather all your pieces  
tonight.  
'All it takes is a little light, a little shatter me  
tragic, and a little more kintsugi magic.  
'And soon, little firefly, you will be whole  
again.

Piece by piece  
Light by guiding light  
You become truly one  
A little glowing ember  
Awaiting at the end of the road  
Beckoning to the next lonely traveler  
'O, little firefly. Let us guide you in the night'  
'O, little firefly. Let us help you remember  
the light you hold inside'  
'The magical gifts you always possess inside'