

Union Station Clubhouse

Newsletter

A Night Out To Overly's

By: Krysta C. and Rebekah M.

On December 4, the Clubhouse took a trip to Overly's to view the beautiful Christmas light displays.

Before traveling to the Westmoreland fair grounds, we made a quick stop at a nearby Wendy's to have dinner. The food was delicious.

Once finished, we headed out to the fair grounds and waited for the facility to open. My... were there some beautiful displays with so many arrays of lights!

We had an awesome time and we hope we do it again next year!



Holiday Festivities In My Community

By: Dustin M.

In Connellsville, the community I live in, for the past decade has aboded itself with a plethora of Christmas preparations. Traditionally, on the first Saturday of December, there is the Breakfast with Santa, a parade, marketplaces for purchasing gifts, cookie tours, and church tours. You can also partake of the local businesses the downtown sector has to offer. It is the highlight of the holiday season for me.

The event, in its tenth year, "*It's a Connellsville Christmas*" focused on the holiday season here in the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania.

One week prior to the start of the annual festivities on Small Business Saturday at dusk, the mayor invited the public down to Veterans' Plaza next to City Hall to enjoy some traditional holiday music by the Connellsville High School Concert Band. As such, I took advantage of the opportunity of being in the front of the crowd by enjoying the songs and using my digital media skills to capture the action. *(continued on page 2)*



(Holiday Festivities...continued) The crowd wasn't too busy and the weather was cloudy and in the 40s. Santa Claus was there entertaining the children and everyone was welcome to partake of popcorn, cotton candy and hot chocolate.

Saturday morning we visited some churches in the community for their sales and craft markets. The Community Ministries thrift shop had 50% off the entire store which only happens a few times a year.

After that we watched the parade roll through town. Many local businesses, marching bands and emergency services apparatus made an appearance.

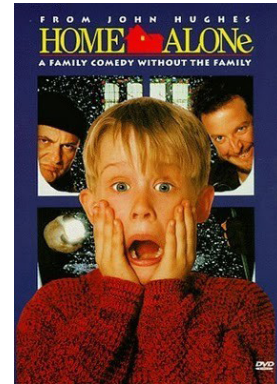
Christmas is what brings the town together - from the lights up and down main street at night to the businesses that decorate their storefronts, it's what makes a community great!

Black Friday Social Day

By: Krysta C.

On November 29 2019, we spent the day at the Clubhouse during Black Friday. We watched the movie "Home Alone".

It was a good movie and we had leftover Thanksgiving food from the previous day. We had a good time with each other. We love being in the company of one another. We always enjoy days like these!



Eat-Out Night

By: Ra-Mel H.

On November 20, the Clubhouse spent their evening event at Texas Road House.

We all had a good time. There was music and dancing. The food was wonderful and the prices were not that bad but not cheap either. We had a nice time. We went to Burger King and we got milkshakes. Then the staff dropped us all off at home. I can't for the next Eat-out Event!



Our Saturday Outing

By: Rose

We all went to Gabe's. We went to the thrift stores Goodwill and St. Vincent De Paul's. We also ate at Burger King. I bought Christmas presents and I got a Bible, too.

Thanksgiving Dinner

By: Krysta C.

On November 27, we had our Thanksgiving Dinner. It was a very nice day. We were served turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, green bean casserole, baked mac and cheese, sweet potatoes, dinner rolls, pies, cookies, and drinks. We had a lot of fun and spent time socializing amongst one another. Can't wait till next year!

Poem Of Life

By: Krysta C.

Life is but a stopping place
A pause in what's to be,
A resting place along the road,
To sweet eternity.
We all have different journeys,
Different paths along the way,
We all were meant to learn some things,
But never meant to stay...
Our destination is a place,
Far greater than we know.
For some the journey's quicker,
For some the journey's slow
And when the journey's finally ends,
We'll claim a great reward,
And find an everlasting peace,
together with the Lord.

Harvest In November

By: David D.

I believe Kris Kringle's reward of giving his best occurred at the start of the fall season! He gave the best he had as a rare find of goodwill. I believe we have a duty to others to share and give.

As the seasonal changes occur and social whereabouts can be overwhelming, I hope each individual can develop trust and convenience in a peace loving manner forbearing a positive ending! Today's article is about thanksgiving and love. Individuals all over the world need to be shown what the true meaning of Thanksgiving is about rather than the false reference shared all over social media.

Signs of good health and goodwill help to give me substance.



Photography

By: Dustin M.

Photography has come naturally to me over the years. I have enjoyed the pleasure of the end product that a photograph provides. At a very young age, about 30 years ago, when film was less expensive, my maternal grandparents would often spend Sunday afternoons venturing throughout the Laurel Highlands in Pennsylvania. They both liked to take photographs of "objects of importance".

This captured my interest, and later in my childhood, they had what I thought was the most interesting item: a film camera that took panoramic photos.

At the age of 14, I had several setbacks until

graduating high school. Then, while attending post-secondary training, the evolution of both the internet and the digital camera came about.

Although my grandparents owned one, I have owned several. When I began working my way toward adulthood, I liked to take photos of objects. I am not a person to take photos of people, although I have been filming some public events recently.

Nonetheless, I never thought I had such a great opportunity to take photos until I saw something several years on Facebook years ago about a young man with Down Syndrome being even more professional than myself. At that point, I realized that there was potential.

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(Photography continued)

Intermittently, I have entered photography contests at local fairs.

In 2014, I launched a Facebook page to showcase my work. That has since expanded to Instagram, Twitter and a Smugmug site and most recently, a YouTube channel. Blending all these online and digital mediums into my hobby has enhanced my passion for photography.

Getting back into the swing of contest entering was easy. As an individual receiving services in Pennsylvania, the Department of Human Services has held a few contests over the years - two of which I entered. I received a second place award both times in the adult category.

In the last two years I have entered in our local county fair and won, including most of my pieces this past year.

I do not know where my journey will take me, but I have great hopes of where it may go. I have recently started offering my works for purchase,

either through my site or through a local gallery. I've begun exploring the medium of video and I do enjoy it in some forms.

I battled my so-called barriers that my Autism gives me and attend my community's light up night to film the local concert band play.

I think my work was OK but I know there's always room for improvement and hopefully greater opportunities.



Happy Holidays!



Goodwill
Southwestern Pennsylvania



www.goodwillswpa.org
www.unionstationclubhouse.org