

HILLSGROVE HAPPENINGS



HIGHLIGHTS

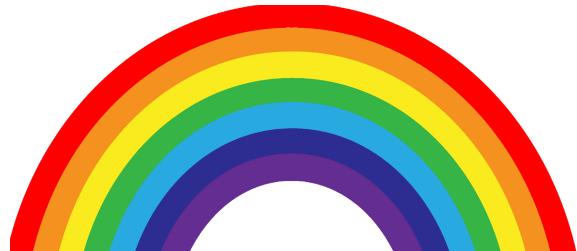
- New Member Update
- Announcements
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UPCOMING SOCIALS

January 1st New Years Day
January 15th Wellness Night
January 19TH, Board Games
January 24TH, Botanical Garden
January 28TH, Employment Dinner

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Director's Corner

IT IS FUNNY TO ME HOW THINGS TEND TO HAPPEN ALL TOGETHER IN A CLUBHOUSE. WE DO OUR BEST TO SPREAD OUT THE TE STARTS AND STOPS BUT INEVITABLY WE WILL BE TRAINING TWO PEOPLE AT A TIME DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS. THIS MONTH, WE HAVE THREE MAJOR REPAIR AND RENOVATION PROJECTS (AND MAYBE A 4TH ONE AS WELL) COMING TOGETHER OVER A WEEK OR TWO WHICH WILL CREATE A BIT OF A CHALLENGE FOR US TO MANAGE.

THE LAST TIME WE HAD SUCH A LARGE SCALE RENOVATION WAS IN MARCH 2022 WHEN WE REPLACED ALL OUR FLOORING THANKS TO A CHAMPLAIN FOUNDATION GRANT. THIS WAS WELL WORTH THE EFFORT, RESULTING IN OUR CURRENT LAYOUT, MUCH IMPROVED AND ATTRACTIVE.

OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS, WE WILL BE REPLACING THE HEATING SYSTEM IN OUR LARGE FRONT ROOM, DINING ROOM, AND KITCHEN. THIS IS ALMOST HALF OF OUR TOTAL SPACE AND WILL THANKFULLY ADDRESS HEATING AND COOLING ISSUES IN THE SPACES THAT ACCOMMODATE ALL OF US AT DIFFERENT TIMES OF THE DAY. TO SAFELY COMPLETE THE WORK, WE WILL NEED TO MOVE ALL OF OUR DAILY WORK OUT OF HALF OF OUR DINING ROOM AND ABOUT HALF OF OUR FRONT OF THE HOUSE. SINCE WE WILL HAVE ENOUGH SPACE TO OPERATE, WE PLAN TO REMAIN OPEN AND FULLY OPERATIONAL DURING THIS PROJECT.

SIMULTANEOUSLY, WE WILL BE COMPLETING A CRITICAL STEP IN OUR LONG-PLANNED EFFORT TO INSTALL LARGE INDOOR PLANTERS TO OUR FRONT OF HOUSE SPACE. WE HAVE A CONTRACTOR PUTTING IN OUR EIGHT HANGING FULL SPECTRUM LIGHTS THAT WILL PROVIDE THE DAYLIGHT NEEDED FOR OUR PLANT INSTALLATION, AND MUCH IMPROVED LIGHTING TO OUR RECEPTION AREA. WE ANTICIPATE THIS PROJECT BEING COMPLETED IN A COUPLE OF DAYS, BUT IT WILL REQUIRE US TO TEMPORARILY MOVE OUR RECEPTION AREA TO THE BACK OF HOUSE WELLNESS ROOM AREA.

THE THIRD PROJECT IS THE REPLACEMENT OF OUR FIRE ALARM SYSTEM, WHICH WILL BE LESS DISRUPTIVE BUT WILL ADD SOME ADDITIONAL NOISE AND INCONVENIENCE.

EACH OF THESE PROJECTS IS VERY IMPORTANT AND PROVIDES US WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRY NEW THINGS, MOVE STUFF AROUND, AND ADAPT TO TEMPORARY CHANGES. A CHALLENGE FOR SURE, BUT EXCITING, PARTICULARLY WHEN THE HEAT FINALLY COMES ON AND WE CAN TAKE OFF OUR WINTER HATS AND COATS. THE FOURTH PROJECT IS THE OUR SIDING REPAIRS AND SOME INSIDE WALL AND KITCHEN TILE REPAIRS THAT MAY BEGIN ANYTIME OVER THE NEXT MONTH OR TWO. ALL GREAT REASONS TO COME BY AND CHECK OUT THE HILLSGROVE HAPPENINGS THIS MONTH, BRING A WINTER HAT JUST IN CASE.

SEE YOU SOON,

MARK

Business Unit

New Member Update

Merissa

Interviewed by Azalea



What brings you to the Clubhouse? I love the Clubhouse because I made new friends and staff.

What do you like to do for fun? I like to hang out in the cafe.

How does the Clubhouse help you? It helps me by showing respect.

What do you like about the Clubhouse? They have nice staff.

What's your favorite Unit? The Cafe.

The front-of -the -house (FOH) team continued to work hard during the work-ordered-day (WOD) but also played hard participating in HC Social activities. FOH members contributed to a variety of socials including a very enjoyable Winter Solstice Party. Members and staff also attended: LaSalette Shrine trip, Education & Employment Dinner, Knights of Columbus Holiday Bazaar, Holiday Cookie baking & Holiday Dinner. Thanks to all members and staff who made the month a great celebration of the staff member relationship and Holiday Season.

Employment and Education Unit

Employment and Education Dinner: This past month we had Josh from the Sherlock Center present on Working & Benefits. We learned about the way working may affect your cash benefits and the different safety nets in place for people. We also learned about huge changes coming in regards to ABLE accounts. (see next page)

Feedback from members:

Ethan: Last night at the employment dinner, Josh from the Sherlock Center told us the new qualifications and requirements to be eligible for SSI + SSDI. We were informed on how we can make a certain amount before losing the benefits.

Adam: The information that was given at the employment dinner was exceptionally helpful. The things I learned about the way SSDI *actually* works is going to help me navigate the ins and outs of social security much more confidently. Its going to help me a lot with the anxiety I've always had in regards to it.

Valerie: Hearing Josh from the Sherlock Center was very informative. He talked about how you can work while receiving SSI and/or SSDI benefits. We also learned a formula used to figure out what you can earn and differences in monthly income payments. I plan to look into the different incentives available for working while receiving benefits. I plan on signing up for the mailing list to learn more.

Next Dinner: Wednesday January 28th . Dinner will be at 4pm and our presentation will be at 5pm. This month we will be having Hillsgrove Advisory Board Member Dr. Drew presenting on Career Exploration.

Employment:

TEP : Michael has been doing well in the Janitorial/Facilities position at the Warwick Old Navy. We are now recruiting for the Brand Associate position which will be coming up. Please sign you name on the interested list, now located on the Transitional Employment board.

Education: The fall semester wrapped up this month at our local colleges. Many of our GED programs also have a winter break. We would like to wish a happy break to all of our hard working students.

Shoutout to Luke! He recently passed the GED History Exam!!!

Thank you to Adam M and Josh H for their assistance in revamping the employment boards!

****PLEASE JOIN US****

THE SHERLOCK CENTER WILL BE HOSTING AN INFORMATIONAL ZOOM ABOUT CHANGES TO THE ABLE ACCOUNT THAT HAPPEN IN JANUARY 2026

EMPOWER YOUR FUTURE: ABLE ACCOUNTS AND 2026 ELIGIBILITY CHANGES

BIG NEWS IS COMING FOR ABLE ACCOUNTS! JOIN US FOR AN EXCITING EMPOWER YOUR FUTURE: ABLE ACCOUNTS AND 2026 ELIGIBILITY CHANGES WEBINAR, HOSTED BY THE SHERLOCK CENTER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH RHODE ISLAND GENERAL TREASURER JAMES A. DIOSSA AND ASCENSUS.

THE CLUBHOUSE WILL BE STREAMING THIS INFORMATIONAL ZOOM MEETING

WHERE: CONFERENCE ROOM

WHEN: WEDNESDAY JANUARY 28TH

TIME: NOON TO 1PM

WHAT IS AN ABLE ACCOUNT?

An ABLE account is a tax-advantaged savings and investment account for individuals with disabilities, allowing them to save money for disability-related expenses without jeopardizing eligibility for public benefits like SSI and Medicaid, thanks to the federal ABLE Act. Funds can cover qualified expenses such as healthcare, housing, education, and assistive technology, with growth and withdrawals for these purposes being tax-free. Eligibility requires the disability to have started before age 26 (rising to 46 in 2026), and accounts are managed by the individual or a designated person.

Contact Pauline if you wish to join us or need the information to register on your own

KITCHEN UNIT



The kitchen unit this month celebrated & prepared for our annual Winter Solstice event. Members, staff, and guests enjoyed our traditional lasagnas. Thank you to the Rosario Society for their generous donation and continued relationship with Hillsgrove Clubhouse.

The kitchen would like to thank all the members (Melissa M., Beth B., Azalea Z., Merissa A., (a new member) for their hard work in making our traditional butter ball cookies. This year we added sugar cookies!!

The Kitchen unit also worked on implementing a new lunch service style to make members feel more engaged in the process!! As always, we celebrated December Birthdays with a white Christmas cake.

Cafe Unit Updates



The holiday season was full of good cheer and yummy snacks at Hillsgrove! With all of our festivities in full swing, it seemed like our ovens rarely caught a break. Pictured above are member baked and decorated sugar cookies for our Winter Solstice party! The cafe would like to recognize and give a big “thank you” to members Melissa, Beth, Azalea, Rayna, Rick, Ralph, and Michael for their continued participation and enthusiasm while working in the unit! We can’t wait to see what the New Year has in store for us!

Announcements

On Thursday, January 1st, New Year's Day, we will be open 10-2 for a social.



On Wednesday, January 14th, we will be closing at Noon. We will also have undergraduates from Princeton University joining us to learn more about the Clubhouse Model.



We will be open Monday, January 19th, Martin Luther King Day, for a social from 10-2.



DON'T FORGET...WE HAVE A WEEKLY DRA MEETING ON MONDAYS AT 12:30 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AND VIA ZOOM. THESE MEMBER-LED DUAL RECOVERY ANONYMOUS MEETINGS ARE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE AN ADDICTION IN ADDITION TO THEIR MENTAL HEALTH DIAGNOSIS.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND A SOCIAL, PLEASE LET THE STAFF WHO ARE WORKING THE SOCIAL KNOW SO THEY CAN ORDER ENOUGH FOOD.



IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, CALL THE CLUBHOUSE AT 401-732-0970 TO SEE IF WE'RE OPEN. WE WILL LEAVE A MESSAGE. IF NO ONE ANSWERS THE PHONE, DO NOT COME IN. WE WILL ALSO UPDATE OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES TO GIVE YOU MUCH NEEDED INFO. IF WE ARE HAVING BAD WEATHER, THINK ABOUT YOUR COMFORT LEVEL WHILE MAKING YOUR DECISION. IT IS BEST TO STAY HOME AND BE SAFE.

JANUARY SOCIAL EVENTS

January 1, New Year's Day, Thursday, 10-2
Pickleball & Brunch

January 15th, Thursday, 4-6:30, Wellness Night &
Dinner

January 19th, Martin Luther King Day, Monday, 10-2,
Board Games and Lunch

January 24, Saturday 10-2, Botanical Gardens

January 28, Wednesday, 4-6:30
Employment & Education Dinner

We hope our readers have enjoyed our January 2026 edition of our newsletter!



If you're interested in learning more about Hillsgrove Clubhouse or would like to get in touch with us to schedule a tour, please contact us at one of the links below:



401-732-0970



hillsgroveclubhouse@gmail.com



www.hillsgroveclubhouserri.org



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