

Hillsgrove Happenings



Our friends from Webster House

Upcoming Social Activities

- March 8, Pickleball & Lunch
- March 13, Wellness Night
- March 22, Mystic Aquarium
- March 26, Employment & Education Dinner

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Director's Corner

WHILE PREPARING TO WRITE MY MONTHLY ARTICLE, I LIKE TO GO BACK A FULL YEAR AND TO REREAD THAT MONTH'S ARTICLE. IT IS BOTH A GREAT REMINDER OF HOW FAR WE HAVE COME AND OFTEN HELPS ME GET OUT OF THE INEVITABLE WRITER'S BLOCK THAT ARRIVES, AS THE DUE DATE GETS CLOSER.

LAST YEAR I WROTE ABOUT HITTING 140 ACTIVE MEMBERS, AND GAVE THE CREDIT TO OUR MEMBERSHIP TEAM AND THE QUALITY OF OUR CLUBHOUSE, MEMBERS, AND STAFF. ONE YEAR LATER, WE ARE AT 160 ACTIVE MEMBERS AND GROWING STILL. TO SAY THAT OUR PROCESS OF ENGAGING REFERRAL SOURCES, THE EFFORT TO HELP PEOPLE QUICKLY BECOME ACTIVE MEMBERS, AND THE TREMENDOUS SUPPORT GIVEN TO NEW MEMBERS HAS BEEN A SUCCESS WOULD BE AN UNDERSTATEMENT.

I AM OFTEN OVERWHELMED BY THE BRAVERY DEMONSTRATED BY SO MANY OF OUR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS AS THEY TOUR THE CLUBHOUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME. WE ARE A BUSY PLACE, AN OPPORTUNITY RICH ENVIRONMENT, WHICH CAN BE A LOT TO TAKE IN. IT IS COMMON FOR US TO GIVE A TOUR TO SOMEONE THAT HAS A DIFFICULT TIME LEAVING THEIR HOME. THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WE ARE A NON-CLINICAL PROGRAM AND THAT THE FIRST PERSON A PROSPECTIVE MEMBER WILL MEET IS ANOTHER MEMBER, COMBINED WITH THEIR TRUST OF A FRIEND, FAMILY MEMBER, OR CASE MANAGER IS OFTEN ENOUGH TO HELP THEM WALK THROUGH OUR FRONT DOOR.

MY FAVORITE QUOTE REGARDING TOURS AND ORIENTATIONS IS THAT OUR GOAL IS TO "INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD THAT SOMEONE WILL COME BACK". OUR MEMBER LED TOUR, A CHANCE TO SEE OUR COMMUNITY IN ACTION, SEEING ALL THE MEMBERS THAT ARE EMPLOYED AND IN SCHOOL, HIGHLIGHTING ALL THE SOCIALS, EVENINGS, WEEKENDS, HOLIDAYS, THE WONDERFUL AROMA OF A LUNCH MADE WITH GREAT CARE, AND OUR FOCUS ON STRENGTHS, TALENTS, AND ABILITIES. ALL OF THIS IS OUR BEST BET FOR INCREASING THE LIKELIHOOD THAT A NEW MEMBER WILL COME BACK AGAIN.

OUR MEMBERSHIP TEAM IS UNIQUELY POSITIONED TO TAILOR THE EXPERIENCE FOR EACH NEW MEMBER. FROM OUR FIRST CONTACT WITH THE MEMBER OR THEIR REFERRAL SOURCE, THROUGH THE SCHEDULING AND COMPLETION OF THE TOUR, SETTING UP AN ORIENTATION AND THE FOLLOW ALONG SUPPORT AS A NEW MEMBER BECOMES ACTIVE IN THE CLUBHOUSE, OUR TEAM TRACKS EACH STEP AND WORKS TO OVERCOME ANY OBSTACLE. EVERY PROSPECTIVE MEMBER DESERVES TO ARRIVE AT THE CLUBHOUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME TO A GENUINE AND HEARTFELT WELCOME FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE TRULY EXCITED TO MEET THEM AND WORK WITH THEM. WE WORK HARD TO BE THE PROGRAM OF CHOICE FOR ALL NEW MEMBERS AND EQUALLY HARD TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE THAT CAN BENEFIT FROM HILLSGROVE CLUBHOUSE KNOWS THAT WE ARE HERE. THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING HOW MUCH OUR MEMBERSHIP HAS GROWN WHEN I REREAD THIS ARTICLE NEXT YEAR.

SEE YOU SOON

FRONT OF THE HOUSE MARCH 2025 UPDATE

BY: JEFF, KEVIN & PETER

ADMIN. TEAM: EVEN THOUGH FEBRUARY IS A SHORT MONTH, IT WAS FILLED WITH MUCH MEMBER AND WORK ORDER DAY (W.O.D.) ACTIVITY. ETHAN HAS WORKED AT RITUAL CAFÉ FOR TWO AND A HALF YEARS. HIS RESPONSIBILITIES HAVE INCREASED STEADILY OVER THAT PERIOD OF TIME. ETHAN HAS BEEN A CONSISTENT, DEPENDABLE, AND RESPONSIBLE WORKER DURING HIS TENURE AT THE CAFÉ. AN EXAMPLE OF THESE QUALITIES WAS WHEN HE WAS ASKED TO CLOSE THE CAFÉ AT THE END OF HIS SHIFT. HE IS VERY PROUD OF HIS PERFORMANCE OVER THESE PAST TWO AND A HALF YEARS AND LOOKS FORWARD TO CONTINUE HIS JOB WITH RITUAL. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK ETHAN. JEANIE HAS RETURNED TO HILLSGROVE CLUBHOUSE THIS MONTH AFTER A SHORT SABBATICAL. SHE ATTENDS THE CLUBHOUSE THREE TIMES WEEKLY AND PARTICIPATES IN THE W.O.D. AS A RECEPTIONIST. SHE IS A BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR WHO IS IN REMISSION. JEANIE RECENTLY GOT HER OWN APARTMENT AND WILL BE MOVING IN ON FRIDAY 2/28. CONGRATULATIONS TO HER ON BEING BOTH A CANCER SURVIVOR AND GETTING HER OWN APARTMENT. THE TEAM CELEBRATES HER SUCCESS. TEAM MEMBER JOHN CONTINUES IN THE THRIVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (TBH) COPY CLERK TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENT (T.E.P.). HIS JOB PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN OUTSTANDING DURING HIS TIME IN THE T.E.P. HE HAS MASTERED THE NEW BILLING RESPONSIBILITIES ADDED TO THE POSITION. JOHN HAS BEEN A NATURAL IN LEARNING THOSE NEW TASKS AND MAINTAINING A HIGH QUALITY OF PRODUCTIVITY. A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE REORGANIZATION OF THE RECORD ROOM. IT WAS A LARGE PROJECT EMPTYING MANY BINDERS AND ORGANIZING DOCUMENTS FOR SHREDDING. MEMBERS ASSISTED IN RECYCLING, DISPOSING OF, AND REPURPOSING MANY BINDERS. THIS ALLOWS US TO BE BETTER ORGANIZED FOR FUTURE CACFP AUDITS. IT WAS EXCITING TO WELCOME BOTH WEBSTER CLUBHOUSE (ROSLINDALE, MA) AND BAYBRIDGE CLUBHOUSE (HYANNIS, MA). BOTH CLUBHOUSES ARE UNDER THE AUSPICE AGENCY VINFEN. WEBSTER CLUBHOUSE VISITED ON 2/5 WITH TEN MEMBERS AND STAFF. THEY SPENT THE DAY WITH US HAVING LUNCH WHILE ALSO ATTENDING OUR POLICY MEETING. MEMBERS AND STAFF ASKED GREAT QUESTIONS OF HILLSGROVE HOUSE. HOPEFULLY, STAFF AND MEMBERS FROM HILLSGROVE WILL BE MAKING A VISIT TO WEBSTER CLUBHOUSE. ON FEBRUARY 25 MEMBERS AND STAFF FROM BAYBRIDGE CLUBHOUSE VISITED US FOR A TOUR, LUNCH, AND TO PICK UP CLUBHOUSE INTERNATIONAL FACULTY MEMBERS WHO WOULD BE COMPLETING THEIR ACCREDITATION PROCESS IN THE NEXT THREE DAYS. BOB IS ONE OF THE FACULTY DOING THE ACCREDITATION VISIT. TEAM MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN A WIDE VARIETY OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: FARM FRESH FARMERS MARKET, WELLNESS NIGHT CHAIR YOGA, FRUIT DIPPED IN CHOCOLATE AND RAMEN BOWLS, AND TO CLOSE OUT THE MONTH THE EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT DINNER.

CAFE UNIT



The Cafe has been thriving this month with many members stopping in to help. We love to try new ideas in the Cafe, and more than happy to welcome new members as well! There's always something to do in the Cafe, even for people that may not enjoy baking. We're excited to show people how to work the register and help with cash deposits, or encourage them to take part in the maintenance of the Cafe, like wiping tables and sweeping! Feel free to stop by and say hello to us!

Kitchen Unit Updates



February was a cold month but filled with meaningful work for the members in the kitchen unit. The kitchen focused on creating more variety of healthy lunches as part of our health & wellness goals. This month, the kitchen crew was able to collaborate with the OT Assistant interns to make our wellness room more inviting for members to utilize. We would like to give a shout out to our new members Nanci C., Chad S. & Vicki T. for joining our kitchen unit. A shout out to Keith S., who is pursuing his educational goals while volunteering in the kitchen & Alex P., who continues to volunteer in the kitchen while pursuing his employment goals. Vinny C. for his amazing salad dressings & Tom I. for his unwavering commitment to meaningful work. Also, Kristal S., who is pursuing her GED. As always, we celebrated February Birthdays with a fabulous strawberry cake topped with chocolate covered strawberries. Thank you Melissa M.!!!

Employment & Education

Employment and education dinner: On the 26th we had our monthly dinner. This month we had an open forum discussion instead of a presentation. This style dinner encouraged members to connect and share with each other and to help brainstorm ideas for future dinners.

Thoughts from members:

Melissa: I like the idea of having 211 come back. I like the idea of members practicing interviews. Also, I liked peer to peer interacting and the company.

Alexis: I liked all the brainstorming ideas.

Kristal: It was good. I like the topics. I like that we are looking into more presentations.

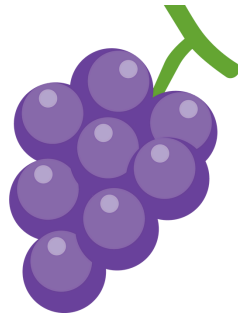
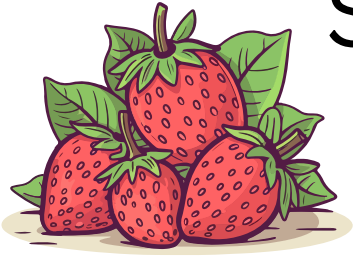
Next Dinner: March 26th 4-6:30pm. We will have Chris from the DLT (Department of Labor and Training) as our guest presenter. Chris is an employer liaison and works with the employers when they are seeking employees. Chris brings a lot of knowledge and information for the employment seeker. Hope you can join us- please let Pauline or Jeff know if you are planning to attend.

UPCOMING TEP position: The Old Navy Brand associate is coming up. This position involves being on the sales floor, straightening clothes displays, and greeting customers. Please reach out to Rosaria or Pauline to put your name on the interested list.

EDUCATION: The Spring Semester is in full swing for our members at RIC and CCRI. We wish everyone a great semester and keep up the good work.

Social Event Update

BY Darlene S.



Last Saturday's social was a lot of fun. We made chocolate covered grapes and strawberries to have for dessert. We enjoyed lasagna, bolognese, mac & cheese, and a special treat, Ramen Noodles.

Rosaria and Dawn kept our energy up and prepared lunch while Melissa made the Ramen. During our time with the fellow members, karaoke was the best.

HILLSGROVE MARCH GARDEN REPORT

OKAY, OKAY, I DON'T BLAME YOU IF YOU'RE ABOUT TO SAY "BOB! IT'S STILL COLD AS HECK SOME DAYS!! WE AREN'T EXPECTING A REPORT!" = IN REGARDS TO A MARCH CLUBHOUSE GARDEN REPORT. BUT OH MY, WE HAVE BEEN BUSY, BUSY, BUSY, YES EVEN IN THIS COLDER WEATHER. OUR NEW URI MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER, MOLLY, HAS ALREADY GUIDED US IN CENTERPIECE PROJECTS, AS WELL AS GIVING SOME OF OUR INDOOR PLANTS A "SPA-DAY" WHERE THEY WERE REPOTTED AND REFRESHED AND IS COMING UP WITH NEW AND INNOVATIVE WAYS TO HELP WITH OUTDOOR PLANTING.

LOOKING AHEAD, SOME OF OUR PEOPLE READING THIS MAY'VE NOTICED TWO LARGE SIX-FOOT LONG BY TWO FOOT WIDE GALVANIZED STEEL TUBS STANDING OVER TWO FEET HIGH HANGING OUT IN THE HALLWAY BY THE OFFICE OF OUR TRANSPORTATION DRIVERS. IF THINGS GO AS PLANNED, THESE WILL BE THE CONTAINERS WE WILL USE FOR LARGE INDOOR PLANTERS. IF THINGS PROGRESS AS WE HOPE, THEY WILL BE SAT UNDER GROW LIGHTS THAT WILL BRIGHTEN UP THE SOMEWHAT DIM SPACE WE HAVE IN THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE BUSINESS / ADMIN / MEMBERSHIP AREAS WITH LIGHT THAT IS CLOSER IN THE SPECTRUM TO NATURAL DAYLIGHT. AS WE KNOW THAT IS A WINDOWLESS AREA. ALSO FOR THIS PROJECT, IN THE "BACK-BACK" OF THE HOUSE THERE ARE SOME 8 FOOT LONG WOOD PLANKS OF LUMBER. WHEN WE WERE PLANNING THESE PLANTERS WE DID THE MATH AND FOUND THE WEIGHT OF THE PLANTERS COULD APPROACH 1,000 POUNDS = 1/2 TON!! WE WANT TO MOVE THEM IF WE NEED TO MOVE THEM, BIG MIKE SAID HE WASN'T SO SURE IF HE COULD PICK THEM UP AND MOVE THEM AROUND THE ROOMS (EVEN MIKE SAID "NAH, PROBABLY NOT GOING TO BE ME MOVING THEM"). SO WE WILL BE BUILDING A SCAFFOLDING UNDERNEATH OF THE PLANTERS WITH THE LUMBER THAT WILL HAVE CASTER WHEELS ATTACHED TO THE WOOD AND THAT WAY WE CAN ROLL THEM AROUND IF OR WHEN NEEDED. OUR PICKLE-BALL EXTRADENAIRE MEMBER DAVID, HAS AGREED TO HELP ON THAT.

IN THE MEANTIME, WE ARE GETTING WARMER TEMPERATURES, BEFORE YOU KNOW IT WE WILL BE STARTING SEEDS INDOORS IN THE BACK-BACK OF THE HOUSE TO TRANSPLANT THE SEEDLINGS FOR OUR 2025 VEGETABLE AND FRUIT GARDENING OUTDOORS. WE WILL BE LOOKING FOR HELP IN ALL ASPECTS OF OUR GARDENING! STAY TUNED!!

BOB WALKER



A decorative blue floral border with intricate scrollwork and leaf patterns frames the entire page. The border is composed of four corner pieces and two horizontal pieces, all rendered in a light blue color.

March Social Events

March 8, Saturday, 10-2

Pickleball, Mosaic Flower Pots and Lunch

March 13, Thursday, 4-6:30

Wellness Night

March 22, Saturday, 10-2

Mystic Aquarium

March 26, Wednesday, 4-6:30

Employment & Education Dinner

**We hope our readers have enjoyed reading our
March, 2025 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.hillsgroveclubhouseri.org



www.facebook.com/hillsgroveclubhouse