

Voice of the Village People

January 1, 2021 – Vol. 11, No. 5

GARBAGE PICKUP: January's bulky collection date is the second Thursday, January 14th. A copy of the schedule has been posted at the Community Center.

NEWSLETTERS:

PLEASE NOTE PANDEMIC PROCEDURE FOR DISSEMINATING COPIES OF FAIRHAVEN AND SENIORS IN THE PARK NEWSLETTERS

Copies of Fairhaven newsletters, as well as copies of The Park Bench, the Seniors in the Park newsletter, are available immediately outside the front door of the Community Center. You will note that the brochure box which "graced" the porch of our previous Coffee House has now been placed in that location, so please help yourself to copies of each. Please feel free to submit an article for the Prairie Village newsletter if you have any interest in sharing information with other residents – either e-mail to Nelda at nelronbergsten@gmail.com, or deliver or mail a "hard" copy to 852 Acorn Ridge.

FURNACE FILTERS AND SALT:

It's that time of year again . . . time to think about preparing for/responding to our winter weather. If anyone needs additional salt for side-walks, driveways, etc., it is available in buckets on the front porch at the Model House, 828 Burr Oak Trail. Furnace filters will be available just inside the first set of doors at the front door of the Community Center.

NOTE FROM PAUL KUENNING

Dear Prairie Village Residents.....

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Recently, just before Christmas I passed a staff member in the hall and greeted them with **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** Realizing my mistake I backed up and wished the same person a **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a **HAPPY NEW YEAR**.....As I thought about this, I am sure I am like many of you, I just want to get 2020 behind me.....**PANDEMIC!!!!** Social distancing, masking, election, zoom gatherings, telehealth, CDC, DHS, PPP, PPE, testing, staffing, missed family and friend events and interactions, opening of the new Community Center, the closing of the new Community Center, stressed business climate, relief payments, ordering online...Above all remembering those we have missed and those we have lost...and the many tears brought on by this and isolation.

NOTE FROM PAUL KUENNING, continued

2020 certainly caught us all off guard and caused many personal and economic adjustments. For Fairhaven and its staff, the residents starting of the “Keep Us Safe” fund supported the purchase of supplies and equipment and extra meals for staff. The resident’s annual Christmas gift was outstanding and again showed your caring for each of our staff in a very difficult time. Your notes, cards, words of thanks and appreciation to staff were and are music to their ears.

2021--the HOPE OF A VACCINE!!!!!!

For 2021 Fairhaven/Prairie Village will be a cautious year as we await news of the vaccine and its dispensing to us and our Nation as a whole. What we know as of now is that we do not yet have a date for when the vaccine will be available for the residents of Prairie Village or the apartments. We do have dates set for skilled nursing and our hope is that we will know soon.

For 2021 Fairhaven/Prairie Village as the vaccine is disseminated and takes hold, it will be a year of rebuilding our staffing throughout the community. The rate increase for 2021 at Prairie Village has not been our historical practice. Two items came in to focus here, one is finding available staff for building and grounds and wage escalation, and bringing on BK property management...when that happened it was due to not being able to find sufficient staff to do the work as the university students leaving town in March and the implementation of extended unemployment benefits due to the virus. The other is the increase for the Community Center which the board approved two years back to do a \$10 increase each year for three years to phase in the operation of the new building...

In adding BK to the mix of providing service: the staffing allocation once provided by Fairhaven/Prairie Village (now by contract) was reduced to reduce the total increase impact. The amount of the increase is certainly not something we wish to duplicate...and would not have predicted.

I have heard many good things about the service of BK Property Management and believe they have stepped up our service and quality. I also know we are still working out the details and they get to know our properties both for lawn care and snow removal and will continue to refine these and continue a high level of satisfaction.

Occupancies at all levels are being monitored as we go forward, and adjustments made as needed. The staffing shortages that were happening before the virus hit have now been exacerbated and available staff is limited. The third floor of skilled care has been closed and staff has been consolidated to 2nd floor. This no doubt will be an economically cautious year.

The opening of the new Community Center is also reviewed regularly. Reviewed is the current positivity rate within our county and state. Currently we are at 14+%. Once we fall below 10 percent, this will take us out of outbreak status and allow for reopening consideration. Further considerations will be made once the vaccine is made available and has had the required time for taking affect. We are also watching for what the CDC and State health departments recommendations will be.

NOTE FROM PAUL KUENNING, continued

Back to my opening comments about Happy New Year and Merry Christmas. I do believe 2020 has allowed us time for reflection of words and action. Christmas is Hope and I am really glad I went back to correct myself of wishing that staff member a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I wish for you the same, Hopeful we can see the Light in many ways.

Sincerely, Paul

SENIORS FEATURING PRESENTATIONS BY DR. RICHARD HANEY

Seniors in the Park will once again be offering historical lectures by Prairie Village's own Richard Haney at 1:00 on Wednesday afternoons in January. Dick's talks are invariably interesting, as well as informative – and very often amusing. Please note the particulars in the Seniors newsletter where you will see that the topics range from the Ku Klux Klan in Whitewater to “Remember Where You Were. . . When. . . ??”

(Editor's Note: This last topic reminded me of a one-liner that I recently heard about the vagaries of 2020: “We can all agree that in 2015 not a single person got the answer correct to, ‘Where do you see yourself five years from now?’”)

LIBRARY UPDATE

Our "supplemental" library remains open at your request and/or when it looks like the weather's good enough for me to have my garage door open for an hour.

Puzzles: We inherited about a dozen more puzzles over the holidays-most are 500 or 1000 pieces. We do have a 100 piece one.

Unrelated to our collection is that I found Puzzle Sorting Trays on Amazon and gave them to my daughter for Christmas. It helps with the initial sort and is helping her assemble larger pieced ones more easily.

Large print books on loan: I'll be in contact mid-January about your returning these so I can get them ready to return to the Whitewater Library. Should there be titles, authors, or genres (I'll be requesting westerns, based on one of our neighbor's request) that you're interested in, please let me know.

Returns/donations: The cooler remains on my porch if you have need for such but don't have time to come in to look at books.

Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Thanks, Kathy Ross

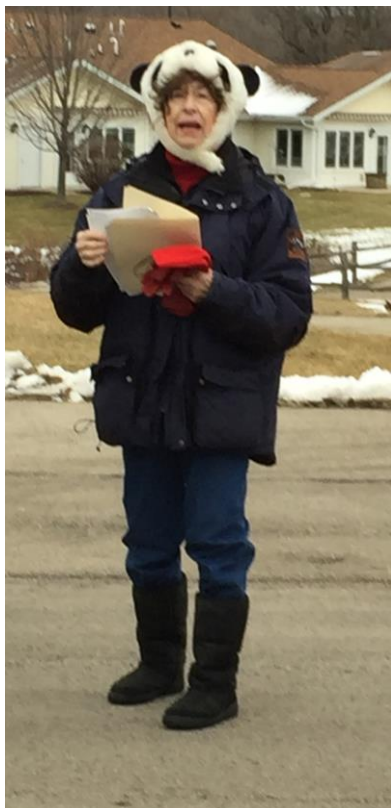
WE WANT TO EXTEND A BIG
WELCOME

to Lee and Edie Gilbertson , who moved into 726 Burr Oak Trail

Prairie Village residents were saddened to hear of the death of Henry (Hank or “Doc”) Mol. Doc was one of the earlier residents of the Village and was an enthusiastic participant in the poker group until his move to Hearthstone a few years ago. His warm, friendly smile and gracious camaraderie will be missed.

Thanks to Judith Moldenhauer and her committee for arranging for our Community Center Christmas tree. Even though we could not actually enter the building, we could still enjoy the colorful lights from the street as we drove by.

Thanks, also, to Judith for organizing the caroling event. As you can see, there was a great turnout for the event.





Hans Hahn gave us a call on December 23rd, telling us about four otters that were gamboling in the pond behind the Hahns' home on Acorn Ridge. Since I didn't want to risk getting too close so as to frighten them, I attempted to take pictures from a distance. Although they aren't the best pictures, the one that is running across the picture definitely appears to be an otter.

This one is hanging in the water, grasping the edge of the ice with his (her?) front feet.



And this one is running toward me on top of the ice.

And this one, still on top of the ice, is running by me, almost directly behind the Hahns' house.

Nelda Bergsten

