

# **Voice of the Village People**

**February 1, 2021 – Vol. 11, No. 6**

**GARBAGE PICKUP:** February's bulky collection date is the second Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto: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 are available just inside the first set of doors at the front door of the Community Center.

## **NOTE FROM PAUL KUENNING**

The Good News: the Moderna Covid-19 vaccine is scheduled to be given on February 12 in Fellowship Hall. We will be getting a schedule out prior to that date to let you know a time to start arriving. Please, if you have not already done so, complete the Walgreens form and return it to the reception desk. I have also been hearing residents are finding additional places the vaccines are being given. If you have signed up at Fairhaven and are going to another place to receive it earlier, please let us know to remove you from our vaccine list.

When the vaccine was given on January 12 on the main campus, over 200 were vaccinated. 97% of residents and 60% of staff accepted the vaccine. Fairhaven has not made the vaccine mandatory for staff at this time, and we are hoping more staff will come to accept the vaccine as time goes on. We are expecting to vaccinate over 300 on the February 12 date.

More Good News: we have not had Covid in the Fairhaven skilled floors since December 2. YES!!!!

We continue to test staff twice weekly and monitor the positivity rate in the County which is still in outbreak status at 12.5%. We are hoping with the return of the students and classes again being offered we will not see a resurgence.

## **NOTE FROM PAUL KUENNING, continued**

The Good News: once the positivity rate goes below 10% we will plan to open the new community center for use. We will, however, have to monitor the new variants of the virus to determine if this may be done. With the opening, social distancing and masking and limiting group size to 10 will still be required. If you use the community center at this time it will be at your own understanding of the risk and potential exposure, even with the vaccine.

We welcome new residents: Mike & Kathy Harenza (836 Acorn Ridge), Sandy Friedl (730 Burr Oak Trail), and Lee and Edie Gilbertson (726 Burr Oak Trail). We continue to have strong interest in new buildings and are currently planning for two new buildings in 2021.

The concerning news: at the beginning of Covid we had a total staff of 240, currently we have a staff base of 180. COVID-19 has prompted retirement and/or job changes due to health concerns. Stimulus and unemployment changes, although needed, have not been helpful in attracting new staff, and has just accelerated the staffing shortage in nursing.

At this time, we are not planning to have staff available to clean Prairie Village units and are recommending contacting Cloute in Fort Atkinson, if cleaning services are needed.

Our third-floor skilled nursing floor is closed and we are currently only using 2<sup>nd</sup> floor with a total occupancy of 35. We have just recently begun to take new admissions. Our apartments are down 25 units, and assisted living is down 8. We continue to monitor our revenues and expenses very carefully at this time, and know that recovery will be a slow process as we navigate a new future. Staffing has been modified where needed, and admissions slowed to make sure we have necessary coverage for the level of care required.

The Know box is used by local emergency responders to gain access to individual homes when there is an emergency. As some residents may recall, several years ago, a resident who was experiencing a medical emergency was responsible for repairs to the door of his home when emergency responders had to break in, because the doors were locked. In order to avoid that damage, with its ensuing financial cost, a box may be purchased, hung over the front door, and secured with screws on the interior back. Once in place, the local Fire Department manager comes out, places the home key in the box, and locks it with the key the emergency responders have. The cost is \$187 (subject to change). If you are interested in ordering one of these boxes, please email Beth Johnson or Paul Kuenning, and we will coordinate the ordering of each one.

**WE WANT TO EXTEND A BIG**

# **WELCOME**

to Mike and Kathy Harenza , who moved into 836 Acorn Ridge and

Sandy Friedl, who moved into 730 Burr Oak Trail

The 835/left side of the home under construction is available. Tell your friends to contact Tim Probst to learn more. Oak Creek floorplan.

## **Prairie Village Library Update**

Some of you have talked to me about needing to figure out what to do with all your books. I'm sharing the following (sorry, I don't remember where I found it) about how to make those decisions.

“To declutter your home and pare down your personal library, start by going through your books one by one. It's tedious, but it's worth it, and can even be fun when it leads to surprise literary re-discoveries. With each book, ask yourself the following questions:

- Will I read this again?
- Do I need this as a regular reference for work or life?
- Is the same information now available online where I can access it just as easily?
- If I lost this book, would I notice?
- Would I try to replace it?
- Would it be easy and affordable to replace?
- Do I really enjoy owning this book, or am I just keeping it to remember that I read it?
- Is this book meaningful to me as I am today, or is it more of a souvenir of another time in my life?
- Is it truly a cherished keepsake or simply an old item I no longer need?
- Do I have duplicate copies of this and is there a reason I need more than one?”

### **Thanks**

The major reason that we get such quick turnaround on our return of large print books to the Whitewater Library is that we are very responsible users of these books. Thanks to all of you who returned your books when I asked or let me know that you needed a book renewed.

Our garage collection continues to grow with some recent donations. It's also apparent that the Little Free Library's books are being used.

I'd tell you I'm counting down the days until the library is readily available in the Community Center, but I don't know when I'd be counting down to! In the meantime, we do have puzzles and books available in my garage. The cooler's on my porch for returns and donations. If you can't come by when I've got my garage door open, call me and we'll sort out a time for you to visit this temporary arrangement.

Please let me know if you've questions or suggestions.

Kathy Ross

I took these pictures on Monday (January 4) morning with my phone. It was so beautiful, these pictures do not capture it. We actually took a ride to see more, but these were from Prairie Village and the off the bridge on Hwy. U. Carla Hahn



Just a reminder: any and all Prairie Village residents are invited (actually *encouraged*) to submit photos or information that they think might be of interest to other residents. Although given our current situation few, if any, residents have been traveling, but sharing photos and info about travels are always welcome. These great photos that Carla shared are a wonderful reminder of the beauty that we all enjoyed at the time that they were taken. Nelda Bergsten

### **Dogs -Leashed**

Concerns have been raised about larger dogs seen running unleashed in the wooded areas around Prairie Village. A reminder that dogs are to be leashed at all times. If you see walkers with unleashed dog you may offer them a gentle reminder. If you are uncomfortable doing so, the City of Whitewater Police Department encourages you to contact them directly and voice your concern. They too want everyone: citizens, large dogs, small dogs and other pet to be safe. Tim Probst – Marketing Director