

Voice of the Village People

December 1, 2021 – Vol.12, No. 4

MORNING COFFEES and HAPPY HOUR: Prairie Village residents are reminded that all are invited to the Tuesday and Thursday morning coffees at 10:00 A.M. in the Multi-Purpose Room in the Community Center. And the same goes for the Happy Hour (cocktail/social hour) at 5:00 P.M. each Wednesday afternoon in the Multi-Purpose Room in the Community Center. Lively conversation is guaranteed at both activities. Fairhaven's Executive Director Paul Kuenning has resumed his bi-monthly reports to Prairie Village, with his next scheduled report to be on Tuesday, January 10th, at 10:00 A.M.

GARBAGE PICKUP: December's bulky collection date is the second Thursday, December 9th. A copy of the schedule has been posted at the Community Center.

FURNACE FILTERS AND SALT: It is that time of year again . . . time to think about preparing for/responding to our winter weather. If anyone needs additional salt for sidewalks, driveways, etc., it is available in buckets on the front porch at the Model House, 828 Burr Oak Trail. Furnace filters are available in the Community Center and can be found on a wooden shelf in the storeroom across the hall from the kitchen.

NEWSLETTERS: Copies of Fairhaven and Seniors in the Park newsletters are available in the brochure box inside the Community Center. 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.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING CALENDAR ITEMS

Saturday, the 4th – Bean Bag Baseball (Multi-Purpose Room) – 9:00 A.M.

Tuesday, the 7th – Tuesday Bridge (Multi-Purpose Room) – 1:00 P.M.

Wednesday, the 8th – Duplicate Bridge (Meeting Room and Office) – 1:00 P.M.

Thursday, the 9th – Bulky garbage/recycling pickup
Fairhaven Therapy Testing and Security Checks – 11:00 A.M.
Poker (Game Room) – 2:00 P.M.

Friday, the 10th – Pot Luck and Trivial Pursuit (Multi-Purpose Room) – 5:00 P.M.

Saturday, the 11th – Bean Bag Baseball (Multi-Purpose Room) – 9:00 A.M.

Tuesday, the 14th – Tuesday Bridge (Multi-Purpose Room) – 1:00 P.M.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING CALENDAR ITEMS, continued

Thursday, the 16th – Christmas Sing-along (Multi-Purpose Room) – 3:00 P.M.

Saturday, the 18th – Bean Bag Baseball (Multi-Purpose Room) – 9:00 A.M.

Tuesday, the 21st – Tuesday Bridge (Multi-Purpose Room) – 1:00 P.M.

Tuesday, the 22nd – Tuesday Bridge (Multi-Purpose Room) – 1:00 P.M.

Thursday, the 23rd – Poker (Game Room) – 2:00 P.M.

Saturday, the 25th – Bean Bag Baseball (Multi-Purpose Room) – 9:00 A.M.

Tuesday, the 28th – Tuesday Bridge (Multi-Purpose Room) – 1:00 P.M.

Tuesday, the 29th – Tuesday Bridge (Multi-Purpose Room) – 1:00 P.M.

JOY TO THE WORLD

*Tis the season to be merry and celebrate the coming Christmas festivities,
with a fun evening at the Prairie Village Community Center.*

Friday, Dec. 10th, at 5:00 P.M. at our CC.

We think A POT LUCK meal is in order.

Bring a dish to pass of some tempting food,
to share with your neighbors.

It can be something “Homemade” or bought in a store.
We will have water and soda, but if you would like something more
festive to enjoy, just bring that with you too... BYOB.

We will have fun pitting tables against each other in a multiple
choice game of Trivial Pursuit.

Looking forward again, to seeing us all enjoy an evening together

* * *

*Thursday, Dec, 16th, at 3:00 PM.
is a Christmas Sing Along Time.*

*This is not choir time, it's a joining together of
songs of the season to sing, hum, or just enjoying
listening to others sing them.*

*Bring a sampling of your favorite Christmas cookie or candy
to share. I'll be bringing my favorite Southern Comfort balls
and Chocolate Rum balls.*

Join us in celebrating the birth of our Lord.

PRAIRIE CHICKS

Because of the Christmas holiday, Prairie Chicks will not be meeting in December. The January gathering will be a luncheon outing. Please meet at the Community Center at 11:15 A.M. on Thursday, January 27th, to carpool.

Laura Fritz from Fairhaven Therapy will be at the Community Center on Thursday, December 9th, from 11:00 A.M. to NOON to perform balance tests and do security checks on walkers or other assistive devices, and to address questions or concerns you may have.

PAUL KUENNING'S NOVEMBER REPORT TO RESIDENTS

Paul met with Prairie Village residents at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, November 9, 2021. His initial remarks focused on dealing with the COVID pandemic, reporting that there are twenty staff members at Fairhaven who will not get vaccinated, which results in things having to be handled differently than in the past. He indicated that everyone who is not vaccinated has to be moved to an area which is not under the federal mandate guidelines for assisted living facilities, adding that some of these people have been with Fairhaven for 15 to 18 years. He did note, however, that approximately 80% of the total staff has been vaccinated, and all new hires will have to be vaccinated. Fairhaven has been advised of its responsibilities by attorneys in health law and labor law.

Regarding the use of golf carts on trails and streets in Prairie Village, and in the City, Paul reported that the City Council is working on developing policies covering such use not only in Prairie Village, but also in the City.

Regarding the audio problems in the new Community Center, Paul indicated that sound panels are being tested.

He also provided an update on construction and availability of units in Prairie Village. He advised that Paul Balfe was moving to Fairhaven, thus making his unit available. And he noted that the unit formerly occupied by Ken and Nancy Rowley is nearly ready for sale and occupancy. He further reported that the unit that is partially constructed is sold and that construction on another building will commence in the near future and that it will be occupied by two brothers.

Paul discussed budgetary issues, advising that Fairhaven is now down to 160 staff members, which represents a number that has never been that low since the original creation of Fairhaven. He reported that hiring CNAs and nursing staff was challenging before COVID, and that problem has only been exacerbated by COVID, indicating that wages in these areas are being increased by 10-20% in the hope of attracting qualified staff.

A resident reported that some street lights near the south end of Burr Oak Trail are malfunctioning. Apparently new bulbs need to be installed. Paul indicated that he would contact the City about that, as they are responsible for the street lighting in that area.

PAUL KUENNING'S NOVEMBER REPORT TO RESIDENTS, continued

Kathy Ross made an announcement about the Employee Christmas Fund, noting that a total of \$37,000 had been donated last year, which was more than had ever been donated to this cause before.

Kathy also advised that she had put out a collection of Christmas books in the library.

And Kathy also reported on her recent experience in volunteering at Fairhaven, noting that her responsibilities had been in the area of delivering meals and picking up trays, and giving residents fresh water. She noted that she will be donating this service three mornings per week, and she encouraged others to consider volunteering, as it is urgently needed.

Paul then introduced therapists from the Greenfield Therapy Company, who provide physical and occupational therapy to Fairhaven residents who need such. They indicated that they are available to treat Prairie Village residents either in their homes or in the Fitness Room at the Community Center.

Paul expressed appreciation to Hans for his work assisting in the purchase of the garden shed, and to those who contributed to that cause.

Library Update Christmas-themed Books in the Library

Our Christmas-themed book and magazine collection is on the table by the Library window. We have one movie, too – Polar Express.

Wisconsin Blue Book 2021-2022

We have a copy of the most recent Blue Book in the Library. If there's anything you want to know about Wisconsin, there's a reasonable chance it'll be there.

Donations

Please leave your book donations on my porch in the cooler, or call me, and I'll come get them. Even though we do have more shelf room in the Library, I've found that it's easier to work with your donations from home and then take them to the Library. Please limit non-fiction book donations to history and biographies. And puzzles are always welcome.

Thanks for your continued support of our library – if you've questions or suggestions, let me know.

Kathy Ross

Thanks to your **Water Station Sponsorship**, the 9th Annual DWS races on September 19th, 2021 were a great success with 383 participants! This year, the DWS was able to distribute \$25,000 to our five local charities: the Bethel House, Whitewater LEADS, W3 (local wellness organization), the Whitewater Unified School District, and the J-Hawk Aquatic Club. These donations would not have been possible without your help!

Did You Know?....Now You Know!

Rusty Kapela

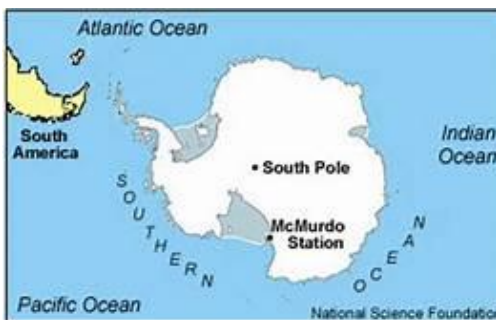
The Earth's North Pole is located in the middle of an ocean...the Arctic Ocean. This Ocean is covered by floating pack ice (sea ice). Portions of the ice that do not melt seasonally can get thick, up to 10 to 15 feet, with ridges up to 50 to 60 feet thick. One-year ice is usually about 2 to 3 feet thick. In some of the recent years, the ice pack has thinned and broken up at the North Pole due to climate change. There is no land at the North Pole...sorry!



Winter temperatures around the North Pole can drop to -50F to -75F. The “warmth” of the waters of the Arctic Ocean keeps the North Pole region from getting much colder. Summer temperatures around the North Pole can climb to +25F to +40F. Animals reported on the Arctic Sea ice are: polar bears, arctic fox, and ringed seals. At least 3 species of birds have been reported, and in the Arctic Ocean there is a variety of marine animals. No penguins! Sorry!

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The Earth's South Pole is in the middle of a continent...Antarctica. Antarctica is the coldest, highest, windiest and driest continent! In the interior the ice and snow have accumulated, over millions of years, to a depth of 3,000 to almost 15,000 feet! The USA's science station at the South Pole is at an elevation of 9,301 feet above sea level. The snow/ice thickness at the South Pole is 9,000 feet! The snow surface at the South Pole is essentially “flat” as seen in the far-right image below. The new building is on stilts to minimize snow drifting. Imagine that!



Did You Know?....Now You Know! continued

The coldest temperature recorded at the South Pole was -117.0°F (-82.8°C) set on June 23, 1982. The record maximum, since readings started in 1957, was 9.9°F (-12.3°C) on Dec 25, 2011. The world's record low temperature was -128.6°F (-89.2°C) at the Russian Vostok Station on July 21, 1983, at an elevation of 11,447 feet. Summer temperatures have reached the 50s and 60s on the northernmost islands of the Palmer Peninsula near the tip of South America.

Several species of penguins live on Antarctica and several bird species live/nest along the coast of the Palmer Peninsula. A variety of marine animals live in the surrounding oceans. No polar bears in Antarctica! Sorry!

Amy Robach, ABC's 20/20 and GMA3 co-anchor, recently journeyed to Antarctica to report on climate change at the bottom of the world. Some of you may have seen her news segments on GMA and other broadcasts. Her trip triggered my North Pole-South Pole article for this month.



I was fortunate to obtain a National Science Foundation grant to work/live in Antarctica/South Pole during the months of Oct-Nov-Dec, 1976. I was one of 3 meteorologists. We worked 11 hour days with one day off per week. When I arrived at the South Pole it was -50F with a 20 mph wind; it was the beginning of their summer! Temperatures gradually warmed to a maximum of -4F on Christmas Day! Yes, it was an incredible experience! I have a powerpoint slide show about my trip "Down to the Ice." Someday, COVID permitting, I'll give a presentation at the PV Community Center. Here are some additional sources:

<https://www.nsf.gov/geo/opp/support/southp.jsp>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amundsen%E2%80%93Scott_South_Pole_Station

<https://www.southpolestation.com/>