

Voice of the Village People

January 1, 2022 – Vol.12, No. 5

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: January's bulky collection date is the second Thursday, January 13th. 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

Tuesday, the 4th – Tuesday Bridge (Multi-Purpose Room) – 1:00 P.M.

Wednesday, the 5th – Movie Night (Multi-Purpose Room) – 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, the 8th – Bean Bag Baseball (Multi-Purpose Room) – 9:00 A.M.

Tuesday, the 11th – Tuesday Bridge (Multi-Purpose Room) – 1:00 P.M.

Thursday, the 13th – Bulky garbage/recycling pickup
Poker (Game Room) – 2:00 P.M.

Wednesday, the 12th – Duplicate Bridge (Meeting Room and Office) – 1:00 P.M.

Saturday, the 15th – Bean Bag Baseball (Multi-Purpose Room) – 9:00 A.M.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING CALENDAR ITEMS, continued

Tuesday, the 18th – Tuesday Bridge (Multi-Purpose Room) – 1:00 P.M.

Saturday, the 22nd – Bean Bag Baseball (Multi-Purpose Room) – 9:00 A.M.

Tuesday, the 25th – Tuesday Bridge (Multi-Purpose Room) – 1:00 P.M.

Wednesday, the 26th – Duplicate Bridge (Meeting Room and Office) – 1:00 P.M.

Thursday, the 27th – Prairie Chicks Luncheon Outing – meet at 11:15 at the Community Center
Poker (Game Room) – 2:00 P.M.

Saturday, the 29th – Bean Bag Baseball (Multi-Purpose Room) – 9:00 A.M.

SOCIAL EVENT NEWS:

We are planning to have a family movie “*Finding Neverland*” on Wednesday, January 5, 2022, at 6:30 pm. for our monthly movie night at the Community Center. Pretzels and mixed popcorn will be served. Spaced-apart seating is available for those of us trying to stay healthy.

Because of the threat of the new Covid strain we are limiting any other large group planned events for the next two months.

The next large group event we are planning will be on Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 12:00 noon. It’s a St. Patrick’s Day party and we will celebrate with a Chili dump & potluck. More info will be forthcoming before that event.

I’m encouraging all of you to visit the Community Center to see the Christmas decorations. I hope the long sled under the Christmas tree will bring back many childhood memories.

PRAIRIE CHICKS

The Prairie Chicks’ January gathering will be a luncheon outing. Please meet at the Community Center at 11:15 A.M. on Thursday, January 27th, to carpool.

Euchre anyone?

We would like to get a group going.

If you are interested contact Elizabeth Asher 262-473-5783. I will call a meeting to discuss when we want to meet and start.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Asher

PAUL KUENNING'S NOTE TO RESIDENTS

Happy New Year

Goodbye, 2021, Hello, 2022...out with the old, in with the new...

Thanks to each of you for your understanding and kindness shown to each of the Fairhaven staff throughout 2021. Your contributions to the employee gift fund were outstanding, appreciated, and means so much, given at this special time of year... It's been an amazingly challenging year in so many ways and each of you have helped make it better by your notes of support, kind words of appreciation, understanding as the time it takes to get things, managing the activities at the community center. It's these things that make challenging times easier.

There is no doubt we are living through some of the most remarkable and tumultuous times... Whatever they bring, one thing to remember is that God's love remains.

Recently as I was going through a box of some of those items, we all keep and found meaningful throughout our life...one item for me was a letter I received when in college. I had returned home from college for the holidays and attended our church's holiday potluck. At the potluck I sat next to the associate pastor, Rev. Ludwig Kutz... in our conversation I made a statement to him that "everything changes, nothing stays the same, nothing lasts" we continued the conversation and went our separate ways. Several weeks later, back at college I was surprised to receive a letter from Rev. Kutz. He was inquiring about my studies and asked if I recalled our conversation at the potluck; whereby he referred me to the hymnal, a page and verse...curious I had to get my hands on the hymnal to find out what he was referring me too...when I looked it up the hymn was, A Mighty Fortress is our God...and the 4th verse

That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through Him who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
His Kingdom is forever.

I have found over my life this to be a good reminder and grounds me in the important things of life. It's a good reminder now in all we are going through and helps us see into the future of a new year with confidence and hope.

This belief, of God, God's Son and the Holy Spirit is what Fairhaven is founded on. Things may change around us, but God's love is forever...and is reflected in each of Us.

May you have a Blessed New Year remembering God's love for you and the Peace it brings.

Paul

January 2022 Library Update

Christmas-themed Collection

Thanks to all of you who looked at and/or read some of our Christmas books. If you find donations for this collection as you're putting away your Christmas things, I'll put them with the collection for sharing next year.

Magazines

Thanks to all of you who contribute magazines. I note the current month on the cover since we do get magazines from previous months. That current note month helps me know which magazines should be removed. Please note that I keep the last month's magazines in the bin on my porch, should you want to find something you've missed.

New-to-Us Donations

In spite of the fact that some interior designer somewhere would be aghast that I'm doing this, I'm going to leave the Christmas book table where it is when I remove those books (probably mid-January). I'll be putting new-to-us books on that table and some from the wall-hung cabinet there so you can easily see what's new. There will also be a box there labeled "Free, Not To Be Returned". These will be non-fiction books that don't feed our reading appetites. I know that we read "People" and "History" books but never saw anything else leave the Club House shelves. If you've questions about any of this, do let me know.

Donations

Please leave your book donations on my porch in the cooler (881 Burr Oak), or call me (262-472-0154), 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

These pictures are for all the people that have not been to the Community Center since the decorations were put up. The elves worked up a storm while we were all sleeping. – Judith



A big thank you to Judith Moldenhauer for the beautiful Christmas decorations throughout our Community Center!! The lovely holiday decorations enhanced our many festivities and activities during this holiday season! Thank you, Judith! Sue Mealy
EDITOR'S NOTE: Sue commented that this should be from everyone in Prairie Village. I'm sure that we all agree.

Did You Know?...Now You Know!

Rusty

On Dec 10-11, 2021, at least 68 tornadoes affected ten states: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio and Tennessee. Their rated strengths were one – EF-U (unknown), 16 EF-0, 28 EF-1, 15 EF-2, six EF-3, two EF-4 and no EF-5s. The National Weather Service issued more than 149 tornado warnings and severe weather (including tornadoes) was advertised for the affected area **days** in advance. You had to have your head in the sand not to know that severe weather was expected Dec 10-11th in that area because the NWS and news media did a great job “spreading the word.”

Yet, about 90 people were killed and hundreds injured during that historic, out-of-season tornado outbreak. The Washington Post newspaper said: “Increasingly accurate and timely weather forecasts and warnings have brought about a significant downward trend in tornado fatalities. But the extreme toll of the Dec. 10-11 outbreak illustrates that vulnerable areas still face a serious risk of highly lethal storms.”

So why do we still have so many people dying in major tornado outbreaks even though early advertisement and accurate warnings have been generated. Below are some of the reasons:

1. Tornado occurs at night when more people are asleep and severe weather spotters have difficulty spotting a tornado when it's dark.
2. Denial. “Yes, I know severe weather is likely, but it will not happen to me.” Therefore, it's business as usual. Besides, storms always split when they come to my town.
3. Lack of personal experience with severe weather/tornadoes. If a person previously experienced a strong/deadly tornado they will change their plans and seek a safe spot.
4. Several personal validations of warning are needed. Some people, after getting an initial tornado warning, have to validate it with follow-up action by calling people, turning on their TV or radio or looking at info on their smartphone. Consequently, they use up valuable time that they could use to seek a safe shelter.
5. Trailer/camper/manufactured homes are not as “solid” and can't withstand high winds. Consequently, they are easily destroyed. Trailer parks may not have a tornado shelter for their residents (many reasons why).
6. Some people simply will not leave their home, even after being called by relatives and/or friends and told to seek a safe shelter. They may lack transportation or financial means to leave.
7. Building codes and zoning laws vary considerably across the country. Pound for pound, not all homes or businesses are built strong enough to withstand tornado winds of EF-2, EF-3, EF-4 or EF-5 strength. Building a stronger home or business will cost thousands of dollars. Few people will choose to spend extra money on extra structural anchors. Remember, we're talking about a **high-impact, low-probability event**...the tornado.

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

8. Some people simply do not get the warning information (cultural, financial restrictions, etc.). Their TV/radio doesn't work or they don't have a NOAA Weather Radio. Or they didn't hear the outdoor sirens (not made to be heard indoors anyway!). Other people are simply too busy with all the other issues going on in their life.
9. Our public educational system doesn't have enough leeway (time, money and program restrictions) to establish a system-wide, mandatory severe weather education program. Consequently, most folks are simply uneducated in the severe weather area.
10. Perhaps, some businesses may have restrictions on employees leaving work to seek a safe shelter elsewhere. What kind of safety plan and shelter does the business have?
11. In general, the basement is safer than any other floor. However, bedrock composition and water table issues may prohibit installation of a basement in a home/business.

The safest place to be in a tornado situation is in a certified "safe-room". These are rooms which are constructed to withstand an EF-4 or EF-5 tornado or a Cat-5 hurricane. They contain concrete, steel rebar and extra anchoring devices and straps.

<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/safe-rooms>



Rusty's Rule: Obtaining and understanding the warning information is 50% of the battle to save your life. The other 50% is knowing how and where to seek a safe shelter in a timely manner.



This deer was spotted drinking from the bird bath in the Bergstens' flower garden last month, when we were still getting above normal temperatures, so the water was not yet frozen.



And this is a picture of wind damage suffered at the Bergstens during the windstorm on the night of December 15th. Shane Niman indicates that there is shingle damage, as well, so repairs are delayed while they deal with the insurance company. Did anyone else suffer any damage from the high winds? Obviously, we can be thankful that the damage was minimal.

Here are some photos from the recent potluck, compliments of Gary Fry:

