

Voice of the Village People

February 2026 - Vol. 16, No. 06

GATHERINGS WHICH TAKE PLACE ON A WEEKLY BASIS:

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 4:00 P.M. each Wednesday afternoon in the Multi Purpose Room in the Community Center, and the Girl Talk gatherings (ladies only, please) on Fridays at 10:00 A.M. in the Library at the Community Center. The kitting/crafting/jigsaw puzzling group meets in the Sun Room at 2:00 P.M. every Thursday afternoon. And, finally, the men gather for conversation on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 A.M. Lively conversation is guaranteed at all of these activities.

GARBAGE PICKUP: December's bulk collection date is the second Thursday, February 12. A copy of the schedule has been posted at the Community Center.

MEALS, MEALS - DO YOU NEED MEALS? For long-term, due to illness or accident, recent hospitalization, bereavement, etc., contact Colleen Endisch - 262-325-1460. And for Whitewater Meals on Wheels (MOW) long-term (\$10 per meal) contact Marguerite Willman, 708-822-0539.

NEWSLETTERS: Copies of Fairhaven and Seniors in the Park newsletters are available on the brochure rack inside the Community Center. Please feel free to submit an article for the Prairie Village newsletter if you have an interest in sharing information with other residents - either e-mail to Carolyn at behrecar@gmail.com or deliver or mail a "hard" copy to 833 Acorn Ridge.

Please note that the DEADLINE for submitting info, photos, etc., for the March issue is February 25

IMPORTANT UPCOMING CALENDAR ITEMS

Sunday, the 1st - Kathy Ross Family Book Exchange, Library, 4:30-8:00 p. m.

Tuesday, the 3rd - Tuesday Bridge (Multi-Purpose Room) 1:00 p.m.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING CALENDAR ITEMS, continued

Wednesday, the 4th - Hand and Foot, (Game Room), 2:00 p.m.

**Thursday, the 5th - Tall Grass Presentation (Multi-Purpose Room), 1:00
Cribbage (Game Room), 2:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, the 7th - Bean Bag Baseball (Multi-Purpose Room), 9:30
Care Team Meeting, Game Room, 9:30**

Tuesday, the 10th - Tuesday Bridge (Multi-Purpose Room), 1:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, the 11th - Rummikub (Game Room), 2:00 p.m.
Duplicate Bridge (Office, Meeting Room), 2:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, the 12th - Poker (Game Room), 2:00 p.m.
Knitting/Crafting/Jigsaw Puzzling Group (Sun Room), 2:00 P.M.
Bulky Garbage/Recycling Pick-up**

Saturday, the 14th - Bean Bag Baseball (Multi-Purpose Room), 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, the 17th - Tuesday Bridge (Multi-Purpose Room), 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, the 18th - Hand and Foot (Game Room), 2:00 P.M.

**Thursday, the 19th - Cribbage (Conference Room), 2:00 P.M.
Knitting/Crafting/Jigsaw Puzzling Group (Sun Room), 2:00 P.M.
Italian Themed Potluck, Arrive 4:30, Eat 5:00**

Friday, the 20th - Tall Grass Presentation, MPR, 1:00

Saturday, the 21st - Bean Bag Baseball (Multi-Purpose Room), 9:30 A.M.

Monday, the 23th - Crime Book Club (Library), 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, the 24th - Tuesday Bridge (Multi-Purpose Room), 1:00 P.M.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING CALENDAR ITEMS, continued

Wednesday, the 25th - Rummikub (Game Room), 2:00 P.M.

Duplicate Bridge (Office, Meeting Room), 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, the 26th - Knitting/Crafting/Jigsaw Puzzling Group (Sun Room), 2:00 P.M.

Saturday, the 28th - Bean Bag Baseball (Multi-Purpose Room), 9:30 A.M.

Please note that information about all activities scheduled at Fairhaven can be found in the Fairhaven newsletter, copies of which are available in the lobby at the Community Center. In the event that the supply at the Community Center has been depleted, additional copies are available at the front desk at Fairhaven.

Just a reminder that there is a daily check-in call service available through Fairhaven. If you wish to participate in this service please contact Shannon and she will get you set up. You will then get a phone call between 8 and 9 each morning which you respond to, and it lets folks in the front office know you are up and moving.

Shannon will join our community for coffee hour on Tuesday, February 10. The meeting begins at 10:00.

A note from the Social Committee:

There was a donation box offered at the January Soup's On Contest. \$115.75 was collected. Thank you all. The treasury balance is \$433.00; \$3.92 goes for Community Center decorating.

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 Community Center. 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.

Venite a mangiare! (Come and Eat!) It's time for our February gathering where we will enjoy Italian cuisine at an Italian themed potluck! What does that mean? Think pasta. Think pizza. Think salad. Think cheeses. Think tiramisu. Think fun and bring what you would like. We will gather on February 19th at 4:30 and eat at 5:00. **Vieni al tavolo! (Come to the table!)** There will be a suggested donation box available. The Kettle Moraine Blues will return for after dinner music. We have always enjoyed their performance and know this time will be equally as enjoyable. They will bring their own donation box. Sign up at the Community Center.

Tallgrass presentation in the Community Center

A representative from Tallgrass Restoration LLC, who maintains our ponds and open areas, will meet with PV residents in the Community Center on **Friday, February 20th at 1:00 p.m.** They will discuss their activity here in Prairie Village and answer any questions you may have. All are encouraged to attend.

Trickery

Mother nature plays tricks.
Her sense of humor, obvious.
January weather
in mid-December,
April in early January.

The trees know to wait and
the melting snow doesn't care.
It all balances itself out in the end.
She doesn't fool anyone.

2/26 Gerry Bertsch

Fairhaven Handbell Choir

The Fairhaven Handbell Choir has openings for new players! We meet on Friday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 in Fellowship Hall and present concerts several times a year. If you are interested, contact Tom Ryan at 608-201-2004 or leave a note at the main desk. We provide instruction if needed!

January 2026 Prairie Village Library, Etc. Update

Library News

Please check the "new to us" books on the countertop in the corner by the Fiction bookshelves, when you're looking for your next great read.

Our Christmas collection seems to have been well used again this year. Please remember those books are available year-round. They're kept in the cabinet over the "new to us" books.

Books (fiction, mystery-thrillers, and non-fiction, "People") are always welcome. Please leave in the cooler on my porch – 881 BOT. Puzzle donations can be left in the Libra

What Did You Think of That Book?

Several weeks ago, our neighbor Edie Gilbertson told me she'd just returned a book that she wanted to tell somebody not to read! That led me to create an opportunity for us to share our thoughts about the books we've read (or maybe not finished). That opportunity takes the form of the large clip board you may have already seen on the Library table. I've done a few entries – just to give you an idea of how this works for me. Your ideas may be different. The point is to take a few minutes to note the title, author, and what you liked or didn't like about the book-and anything else. Would you recommend it? Please note if you found it in our Library or elsewhere.

ETC

Whatever prescription bottles you leave in my porch cooler are recycled to Rock County Health Net.

Get as many birthday cards as you need for 2026 and beyond – any quantity, any donation is welcome. Please remember to pay!!! Thanks for supporting Friends of Fairhaven/Mini Mart.

Food donations to the Community Space are always welcome. They can be left in the box in the Library, in the cooler on my porch, or call me for pick up.

Questions/suggestions, please ask - Kathy Ross

Prairie Chicks

February 26 we will meet at 11am at the Community Center to carpool to the Real McCoys. RSVP 262-473-5783 to Elizabeth by February 20.

Deadline for the March Newsletter will be February 25.

MOVIE NIGHT MONDAY February 9, 2026, 6:00pm.

It's an engrossing British series called "LUDWIG"

This captivating series centers on a brilliant, middle-aged, shy man who is known for creating puzzles for newspapers and publishing puzzle books.

The main storyline unfolds when his identical twin's wife reaches out to him after her husband, a police detective, goes missing. She asks him for help in finding her husband, setting off a compelling thread that runs through the series. Each episode also offers an additional, unique story, ensuring a fresh and engaging experience every month. As always, enjoy buttered popcorn and beverages while you watch.

Movie Night dates for 2026 are as follows: Monday, February 9; March 9; April 13; and May 11. All at 6:00 pm. If you have any questions call Judith on her cell number 262 273 0350

CRIME BOOK CLUB

Because of the extreme cold, Crime Book Club folks stayed at home in warm comfort and were able to start our new book. That new book is by Alex Michaelides and the title is The Maidens. We will gather on February 23 at 2:00 (Community Center Library). Bring your notes from Daisy Darker!

MENDING SERVICES

Do you have articles of clothing that need repair and/or alterations. I would be pleased to offer my services to handle those problems. Please contact me at 854 Acorn Ridge or call me at 651-341-4264. Caroline Forster

Soup's on Contest: We met on January 19 and tasted 11 Great Soups. After careful scrutiny, the Winners were announced:

First Place: Kathy Schumacher

Second Place: Judith Moldenhauer

Third Place: Binnie Malewicki

Let's Look at the Recent Massive Winter Storm of Jan 23-26, 2026**Key Points:**

- This storm was predicted, in general, roughly a week in advance.
- Meteorologists saw this storm had the potential for:
 1. Extremely cold temperatures in the northern Plains states into the Great Lakes Region,
 2. A swath of heavy snow accumulations in the nation's midsection from New Mexico and Oklahoma to the New England states,
 3. A band of sleet accumulations south of the snow area,
 4. A corridor of freezing rain (ice storm) south of the sleet area,
 5. Showers/thunderstorms over parts of the Gulf States with some severe weather.

Here's a map showing the extent of the winter storm. The map doesn't show which locations in the Midwest experienced extreme cold conditions.



The ice storm aspects of this massive Jan 23-26th weather system can potentially be more crippling and longer lasting than the frigid temperatures, snow and severe weather.

Key Points of Ice Storms:

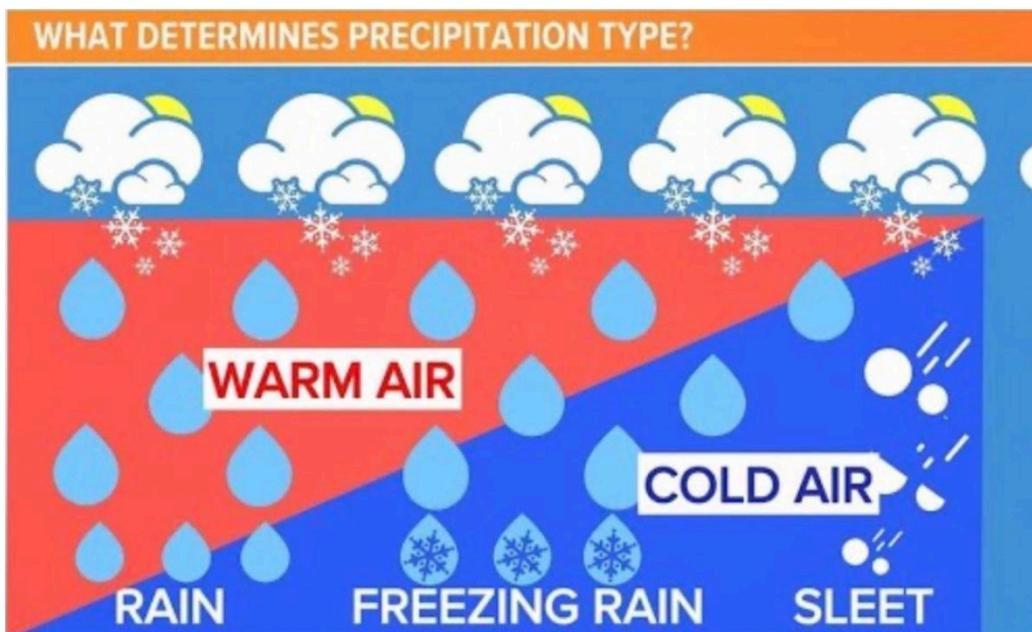
- Freezing rain can accumulate to a depth of 1/8 to 2 inches or more on road surfaces, trees and other objects,
- Powerlines can break due to the weight of ice accumulations and/or wind gusts or fallen trees,

- Road surfaces become ice-skating rings resulting in closed roads and tremendous numbers of vehicle accidents,
- Numerous roads can be closed due to debris from fallen trees, powerlines and other objects,
- Due to the widespread nature of ice storms our utility companies may be unable to restore power to all affected areas for several days up to a week or so,
- If you live in an area that experiences power outages you may want to purchase a backup power generator. They can operate on natural gas or other fuels.

Ice storms result from freezing rain accumulations. This requires the ground and air temperatures in the lower atmosphere to be at or below freezing (32F). Obviously, we need rain to be falling from the clouds. In these situations we have warm moist air from the Gulf of America flowing north over shallow cold air pushing south out of Canada. If the warm, moist air is warm enough and deep enough it can melt the snow falling from the clouds. Remember, nearly all our precipitation, outside of the tropics, starts off as ice crystals and snow...year-round!

Below is an idealized graphic of how different types of precipitation occur at the ground depending on depth of the warm air moving north.

In this graphic the warm, moist air is moving left to right, toward the north. For sleet to occur at the ground we need the warm, moist air to melt the falling snow, but the depth of the cold air in the lower atmosphere is sufficient to refreeze the rain drops into small ice pellets called "sleet."



Below is an image from Mississippi showing removal of debris from roads. Ouch!



