

Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin

Fostering Community Dialogue and Participation

The *Grassroots Gazette* reports on community action opportunities throughout Iowa, Grant, Sauk and Lafayette Counties and how YOU CAN GET INVOLVED. For more info, www.grassrootswi.org

February 14, 2020



- [Spring Primary \(Feb 18\)](#)
- [New Dodgeville Library Referendum \(Feb 18\)](#)
- [Soil Health, Diversity, & Sustainability \(Feb 22\)](#)
- [Listening Session: Road Funding \(Feb 10\)](#)
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Spring Primary

Tuesday, February 18, 7am-8pm

Are you registered? [Click here!](#)

Find your polling place [here!](#)

Preview your ballot [here!](#)



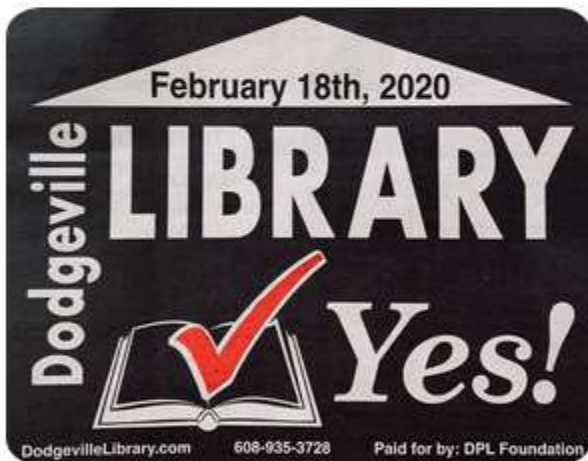
Spring Primary: Following are items that may be on your ballot. To preview your ballot click here: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-US/previewmyballot>.

- City of Dodgeville Public Library Referendum – learn more here: <https://dodgevillelibrary.com/library-building-project/>
- Justice of the Supreme Court: [Edward Fallon](#), [Jill Karofsky](#), [Daniel Kelly](#) (Top two candidates move on to April 7th Spring Election)

Looking Ahead: Presidential Preference Primary – April 7, 2020

Polls open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.– Offices to be elected:

- Presidential Preference Vote
- Justice of the Supreme Court
- Court of Appeals Judge District 4: Rachel A. Graham
- Iowa County Board Members ([see Districts here](#))
- Lafayette County Board Members
- Various local mayor, alderman, village and town boards
- Various School Boards – e.g. Dodgeville School Board – W. of Hwy 23 and Member at Large



New Library Referendum on the Spring Primary Ballot on

Tuesday, February 18 | 7am–8pm

[Find your polling place](#)

See renderings of the [proposed new library](#), including [floor plans](#), [aerial renderings](#), and [architectural drawings of the exterior from many angles](#). Contact Library Director Vickie Stengel, vstangel@swls.org, 608-935-3728 or visit dodgevillelibrary.com/library-building-project/ for more info.

ALSO, check out the [dedicated Facebook page](#) about the New Library Referendum.





Soil Health & Diversity: Keeping Farms Economically and Ecologically Sustainable

Saturday, February 22 | 1-4pm

[Lenz Conference Center, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College](#)



Speakers:

Scott Mericka – Grass Dairy LLC, is a pasture-based rotational grazing dairy in rural Dodgeville. The farm grows a diverse perennial pasture for 200 cows whose milk supplies the farmstead cheese maker Uplands Cheese Company. Milk balances in the shoulder seasons are marketed through Rolling Hills Dairy Producers Coop.

Mike Miles – A Catholic Worker for 45 years and family farmer at Anathoth Community Farm outside of Luck, Wisconsin. For twelve years he has been a practitioner of regenerative agriculture as one of the best solutions to climate chaos. His YouTube channel (Anathoth Community Farm) approaches 500,000 visits and he maintains several Facebook pages on agricultural issues.

More info: Dave & Donna Swanson,
dave.donna.swanson@gmail.com

This event was made possible by a grant from
FOOD, FAITH AND FARMING NETWORK

SPONSORS FOR THIS EVENT INCLUDE:

Grant County Rural Stewardship – Southwest Wisconsin
Technical College – Wisconsin Farmers Union – Grant County
Farm Bureau – Organic Valley Crawford Stewardship Project –
Valley Stewardship Network

(farm photos by Lynn Grooms/Agri-View)





State Senator Marklein's Listening Session on Feb. 10

Road Concerns and Funding Suggestions Shared by Residents

[\(click for Marklein's comments on road funding\)](#)

More than 25 people attended a listening session hosted by Wisconsin Sen. Howard Marklein, R-Spring Green, at Southwest Wisconsin Technical College in Fennimore.

The condition of the state's highways has been identified as among the bottom-third in the country, and local officials say town and county roads are deteriorating.

Iowa County Supervisor Mark Storti (pictured in center at left) expressed disappointment that Wisconsin lawmakers authorized a \$10 vehicle registration fee increase in the 2019-21 biennium budget but rejected efforts to raise the state's gas tax to finance local road projects.

Gov. Tony Evers proposed an 8-cent gas tax increase before the budget was approved last year and policy that would automatically adjust the tax with inflation.

Attendees drew attention to an anticipated \$450 million state budget surplus, which lawmakers have considered funneling into a tax break.

But some in the audience indicated they would rather see the funds invested in local road repair, housing rehabilitation grants or mental health initiatives.

Read Bennet Goldstein's full article [here](#).

Photos by Dave Kettering



Water Quality Issues Panel Discussion Held February 4



Dennis Frame, former director of Discovery Farms, moderated a panel of legislators – several from SW Wisconsin – on **water quality issues** at Wisconsin Farm Bureau Ag Day at the Capitol on Feb. 4.

[Read full coverage by Wisconsin State Farmer here.](#) (Photo: Carol Spaeth-Bauer)



UNITED TO GROW FAMILY AGRICULTURE

Wisconsin Farmers Union Iowa-Grant Spring Meeting

Saturday, March 7 | 12:00pm-1:30pm

[SW Technical College, 1800 Bronson Boulevard, Fennimore, WI](#)

Rex Smith, WFU member and SW Tech Dining Services Manager, will speak about his role at SW Tech and utilizing local growers to provide food for students and faculty. Rex will then lead a tour of SW Tech's Growtainer, which is a shipping container that's been converted into controlled environment for growing a wide range of horticultural, floriculture and agricultural products in all environments and climates. Contact Michelle Godez with any questions – Michelle.Godez@gmail.com



Immigration: An American Story

Now through March 12 | Free
[Verona Public Library](#)
[500 Silent St., Verona, Wisconsin 53593](#)

This traveling exhibition presents documents, maps, and images to tell select stories of those who came to America, some by coercion and others by choice in search of a better future for themselves and later generations. The exhibition will be on view at the Verona Public Library from now – March 12, 2020.

Immigration: An American Story is a national traveling exhibition developed by the Gilder Lehman Institute of American History.

You may find this interesting...

- Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance (press release): [Statement on Governor Evers' special session on education](#) (2/10/20)
- Wisconsin State Journal: [More than \\$432 million in farm aid paid to struggling Wisconsin farmers](#) by Elizabeth Beyer (2/10/20)
- **Wisconsin Examiner**: [What Wisconsin could show the nation](#) by Ruth Conniff (2/10/20)
- Capital Newspapers: [Sauk County, Reedsburg Utility Commission plan to complete Spring Green broadband project by October](#) by Nicole Aimone (2/7/20)
- Dodgeville Chronicle: ['Listening Session on Roads' meeting attracted numerous opinions, viewpoints on situation Monday night at Pecatonica](#) by Gary McKenzie (2/4/20)
- Telegraph Herald: [Residents share road concerns, suggest funding opportunities during Marklein event](#) by Bennet Goldstein (2/11/20)
- Dodgeville Chronicle: [Governor Tony Evers signs executive orders to support rural farmers](#) by Kasi Greenwood (2/4/20)
- **Wisconsin Examiner** – Part 1: [Organic food crisis threatens Wisconsin dairy farmers](#) by Marc Eisen (1/31/2020)

- **Wisconsin Examiner** – Part 2: [Which way to turn? The crisis in organic farming has divided advocates on how to protect organic integrity](#) by Marc Eisen (2/3/2020)
- Wisconsin Public Radio: [New group seeks to tell stories of struggle in Wisconsin's rural towns](#) by Rob Mentzer (1/30/20)
- Associated Press: [Architecture school started by Frank Lloyd Wright to close in Spring Green](#) (1/27/20)
- WisPolitics: [Evers signs executive order to create redistricting commission](#) (1/27/20)
- **Wisconsin Examiner**: [Southwest Wisconsin voters rank safe clean water as top issue](#) By Howard Learner (1/27/20)
- Dodgeville Chronicle: [Iowa County starts conversation about Clean Renewable Energy District](#) by Kasi Greenwood (1/27/20)
- **Washington Post**: [Fighting suicides in dairy country through 'farmer angels'](#) by Dan Simmons, Wisconsin Reporter (1/18/2020)
- **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel**: [Dairyland in Distress](#) Series (compilation from 2019)

- February 20 – Madison – [WisPolitics Luncheon: April Presidential Primary](#)
- February 25 – Madison – [Tech Council: SHINE Medical Technologies' Isotope Progress Update](#)
- March 2 – Madison – [La Follette School of Public Affairs: Health Policy](#)
- March 21 – Mazomanie – [12th Annual Grassroots Festival](#)
- March 24 – Madison – [Politics & Policy with David Brooks of the New York Times](#)
- April 6 – Wausau – [Former NSA Advisor John Bolton to speak at WIPPS Public Issues Series](#)
- April 21 – Madison – ['Bill Nye the Science Guy' to talk climate change at UW-Madison](#)

**OTHER
EVENTS**



Driftless Area *Drinking Liberally* Chapter Meeting

Wednesday, February 19, 5:30–8pm | Free
Duke's Brew Pub
[105 E. Chapel Street, Dodgeville](#)

Drop in at Duke's Brew Pub anytime between 5:30 and 8pm to join the Drinking Liberally group. Part of a national movement, it's a political and social organization where self-identified liberals and progressives gather in local hot spots to socialize, talk politics and drink responsibly! For information contact Jubie Simonson at jubiesimonson@hotmail.com or Michelle Godez at michelle.godez@gmail.com.

Postcard Groups Gather Weekly

Join the group nearest you – for conversation, fun, friendship, and political action.



CONGRATULATIONS Dodgeville/Mineral Point Postcard Group on your 3rd Anniversary!

A festive atmosphere with colorful balloons and tasty snacks and a wonderful postcard poster. What a surprise and satisfaction at the total number of postcards last year: 2718.

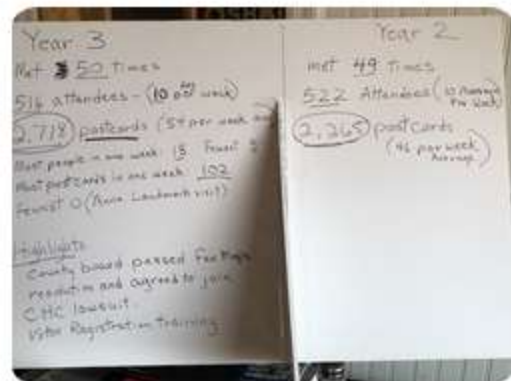
Peals of laughter above the babble of many simultaneous conversations, but somehow at the end, amid the jumble of papers on the table, 48 written postcards. Topics covered were as diverse as the concerns of the thirteen in attendance.

In a moment of quiet, Christine and Myra reported on their visit to Rep. Todd Novak's office. Novak's aide, Ben, took their questions and recognized Myra's name! He also mentioned Bob, whose cards are after all quite memorable, and Resha. Ben assured them that he reads every postcard. Encouragement to keep writing in our fourth year!

This Postcard Group meets every Wednesday at 9:30am in coffee shops in Dodgeville and Mineral Point. Contact [Judy Stieber](#) for info.

Join the fun February 19
at Cafe 43 in Mineral Point.





(Kathie and Judy, photographer and technical assistant)

MORE POSTCARD GROUPS:

Mazomanie: The “Mazo Muddlers” meet Mondays at 10am at Base Camp Café, 18 Brodhead in Mazomanie. Contact: janetbrandt10@gmail.com

Platteville: Every Tuesday from 9:30 to 11:30am upstairs at the Driftless Market, 95 W. Main Street, Platteville. Contact: suestrickler@gmail.com or 608-330-3027



Do you have an opinion you'd like to share with your Driftless Region neighbors? Consider writing a letter to the editor at one of the many newspapers we are fortunate to have in our area:

Monroe Times--- editor@themonroetimes.com

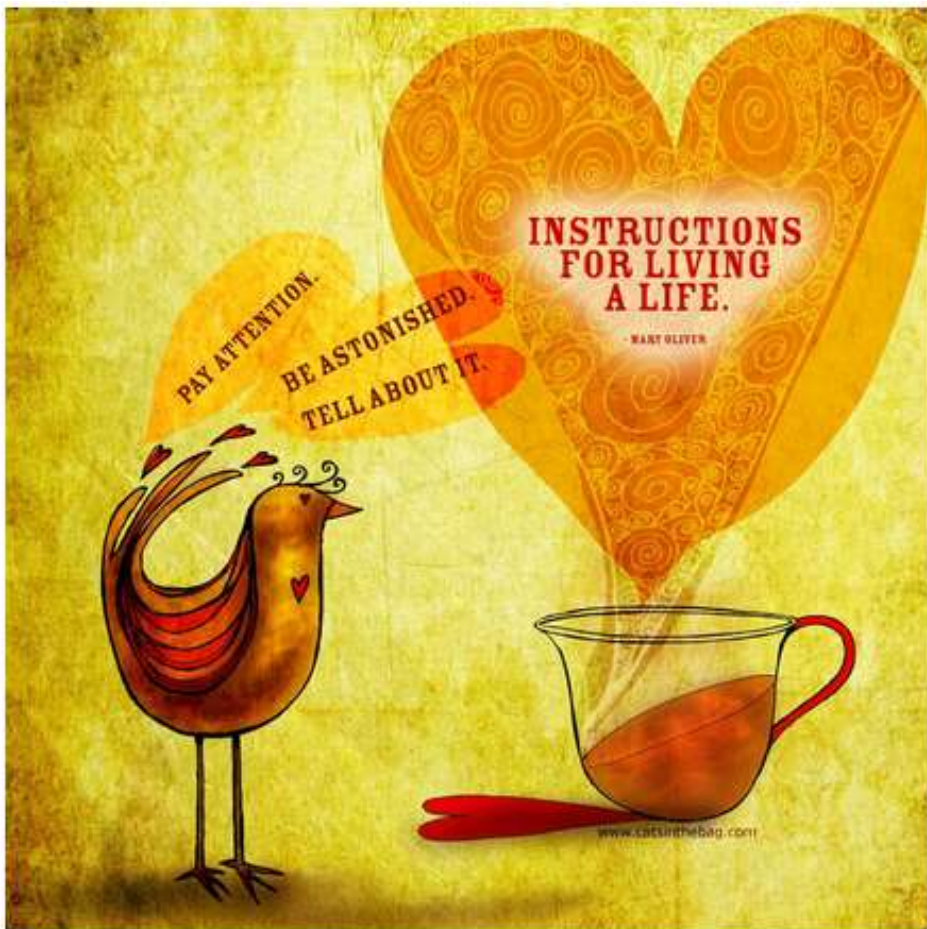
Darlington Republican Journal--- rjeditor@centurytel.net

Dodgeville Chronicle--- news@thedodgevillechronicle.com

Mineral Point--- democratictribune@thedodgevillechronicle.com


Richland Reporter--- richlandreporter@mwt.net

Spring Green--- homenewseditor@newspublic.com



GRASSROOTS CITIZENS OF WISCONSIN is an energetic group of over 700 people in southwest Wisconsin who are interested in steering our country in a more positive direction. For further information, or to add a friend to our mailing list, please contact: Claudia Looze, Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin at grassrootswi@gmail.com

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