



The Grassroots Gazette fosters community dialogue and participation throughout Southwest Wisconsin

THE WI. SUPREME COURT ELECTION is Feb. 19

Plus other important events coming up in Mineral Point, Spring Green, Dodgeville



Tues., Feb. 19 (statewide) ALL-IMPORTANT WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT PRIMARY ELECTION.

If you thought you could forget about political campaigns for awhile, YOU ARE WRONG.

Yet one more controversial Wisconsin Supreme Court race is coming up in February. Up for election is [Justice Patience Roggensack](#), part of the four-justice conservative majority that has been feuding openly with opposing justices for years. Roggensack will have two opponents facing off in a Feb. 19 primary. The top two vote getters will advance to the April 2 general election.



Marquette law professor [Ed Fallon](#) would become the court's first Latino justice if elected.

(He's also proud of his father's Italian heritage). His specialties include constitutional law, immigration law, securities regulation and corporate law. He has worked extensively with nonprofit organizations serving at-risk populations including Centro Legal Inc., the Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Assistance Program and The Latino Community Center. He has actively promoted stem cell research as President of Wisconsin Stem Cells Now.



Lawyer [Vince Megna](#) has made a name for himself by representing consumers who bought faulty vehicles.

The Washington Post has called him "the King of Lemon Laws." As a candidate, Megna has taken the controversial step of declaring himself a Democrat in what is considered to be a nonpartisan race. Megna says he wants to "stop the fiction" that court races are nonpartisan, while his opponent Ed Fallon contends that "A justice must be impartial and Megna's declaration only further tarnishes the public's perception of the court".

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

Fri., Jan. 11, 4 to 5:30 p.m. (Dodgeville) CITIZENS FOR PEACE MEETING Join this dedicated group at the home of Joan Mish, 301 Virginia Court in Dodgeville. They'll be talking about the upcoming Great Decisions series, Post Card Politics and other action items. Contact Jane Kavaloski at Kavaloski@countrysspeed.com for more information.

Sat., Jan. 19, 9 a.m. (Dodgeville) CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY - IOWA COUNTY CHAPTER The debate is over. We owe it to all future generations to learn how to alleviate the most damaging effects of climate change. You can be an effective voice. Learn how at this hands-on meeting to be held at the Tennessen home, 3893 Mill Creek Road in rural Dodgeville. Call 987-3835 for more details. Everyone is encouraged to participate.



Sat., Jan. 19, 2 p.m. (Spring Green) "POVERTY IN THE LAND OF PLENTY" is the theme for River Valley's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration Armando Ibarra, assistant professor at UW-Madison, will talk about "Poverty in the Land of Plenty: Social Justice and Economic Organization" at this annual event to be held in the library of Spring Green Elementary School, 830 W. Daley St. Ibarra specializes in the issues of diversity in the workplace and international labor migration. He has contributed to a new documentary film called *The Bracero Program: Harvest of Loneliness*, which will be shown at the event. The annual Spring Green observance honors the legacy of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., clergyman, activist, and leader in the African American civil rights movement. In his honor, birthday cake and beverages will be served. The event is free and open to the public. For information contact David Giffey at barnowl1941@gmail.com.

Mon., Jan. 21, beginning at 11 a.m. (Spring Green) INAUGURATION DAY PARTY President Obama will take the oath of office at approximately 11 a. m., followed by his inaugural address. The inaugural parade starts at 1:30 a.m. (our time.) Enjoy watching all the events with friends at the Spring Green General Store, 137 Albany Street. Come when you can and stay as long as you can. Two TVs will be set up or you can bring your own computer and use the WiFi.

Wed., Jan. 23, 7 p.m. (Mineral Point) COOL COMMUNITIES MEETING Save money this winter! Reduce energy costs in your home and benefit from a support group's help while you save. Also learn about the broader implications of fossil fuel energy use on our climate and how you can help. The meeting is at the Congregational United Church of Christ, Mineral Point, 300 Maiden St., right after the free community dinner. Come for dinner and stay for the meeting. Everyone is welcome. Contact Chuck Tennessen, 987-3835, for additional information.

Fri., Feb. 1, 7 p.m. (Spring Green) "SING OUT: A CELEBRATION FEATURING THE MT. ZION GOSPEL CHOIR OF MADISON" - to commemorate Black History Month Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to hear the Mt. Zion Gospel Choir, which performs annually with the Madison Symphony Orchestra and throughout Wisconsin. Led by Leotha Stanley, the choir combines jazz, blues and gospel "to raise the roof" with its captivating spiritual music. The event is sponsored by Rural Musicians Forum and Grassroots, among other local organizations. Location: St. John the Evangelist Church, Spring Green.

Tues., Jan. 15, 7 p.m. (Dodgeville) IOWA COUNTY REGULAR BOARD MEETING The board meets in the Health and Human Service Building, 303 W. Chapel. When it becomes available, the agenda will be posted at <http://iowacounty.org/countyboard/committees/countyboard.shtml>. Click 2013 to find the agenda.

LAST CALL FOR HELP IN SELECTING DODGEVILLE'S "GREAT DECISION" TOPICS FOR SPRING, 2013 The Great Decisions Discussion Program is the oldest and largest world affairs education program in the country. Again this year, the Dodgeville Public Library in cooperation with Grassroots will be hosting the "Great Decisions" discussion series in Spring, 2013. The library staff needs your help now to choose the most compelling topics. Please rate your favorites among the following: 1) Future of the Euro; 2) Egypt; 3) NATO; 4) Myanmar and Southeast Asia; 5) China in Africa; 6) Iran; 7) When should the international community intervene? 8) Threat Assessment. Send your results to Vickie Stangel at the library vstangel@swls.org. Or visit the library to complete the "Great Decisions" form.

GRASSROOTS SENDS ITS HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DODGEVILLE "GREEN AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS" TEAM. All four Dodgeville schools have been officially declared "Green and Healthy Schools" as a result of a rigorous four-year assessment and implementation program. The entire staff of the Dodgeville school district and the students participated in this effort. The final report offers much valuable information that the Dodgeville school board can implement to save energy costs. Only 40 of the 3,141 schools throughout the state have achieved this designation, sponsored by the WI Department of Natural Resources and the Dept. of Public Instruction. In achieving this goal, spearheaded by long-time Grassroots member Chuck Tennessen, the schools "have demonstrated their commitment to a more sustainable earth, a stronger community and a healthier, more productive learning environment," according to Dodgeville Chronicle reporter Jean Berns Jones in a recent article.

GRASSROOTS CITIZENS OF WISCONSIN, an energetic group of over 1000 people in Iowa, Sauk, Crawford, Richland, Lafayette and Grant Counties who are interested in taking an active role in improving government and promoting rational discussions of local, state and national issues. For further information, or to add a friend to our mailing list, please contact: Shirley Barnes, Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin, 2473 Mt. Hope Road, Dodgeville, WI. 53533, 608-623-2109, e-mail: grassroots@merr.com.

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