

# Voice of the Village People

November 1, 2024 – Vol.15, No.3

**MORNING COFFEES, GIRL TALK, HAPPY HOUR, and MEN’S GROUP:** 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 for the Girl Talk gatherings (ladies only, please) on Fridays at 10:00 A.M. in the Library at the Community Center. 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:** November’s bulky collection date is the second Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. A copy of the schedule has been posted at the Community Center.

**MEALS, MEALS – DO YOU NEED MEALS?** For short-term, due to an 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.

**MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR SHORT-TERM LEASE:** An updated list of Medical Equipment for short-term lease is posted in the Community Center office. A reminder that this is for short-term loan only. If you or your family is in need of any of these items, or you have any items to add to the list, contact Steve Lade at 262-458-2261.

**HOME RESPITE ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE --** Please be reminded that if you or a loved one would like a break from caregiving, this committee can furnish a volunteer to visit at your home while you can have time away. Dates and times are flexible. If you would like to utilize this service, contact Steve Lade at 262-458-2261.

**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 any interest in sharing information with other residents – either e-mail to Nelda at [nelronbergsten@gmail.com](mailto:nelronbergsten@gmail.com), or deliver or mail a “hard” copy to 852 Acorn Ridge.

Please note that the **DEADLINE** for submitting info, photos, etc., for the December issue is Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>.

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING CALENDAR ITEMS

Friday, the 1<sup>st</sup> – Handbell Choir Concert at Fairhaven – 10:00 A.M.

## **IMPORTANT UPCOMING CALENDAR ITEMS, continued**

Saturday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bean Bag Baseball (Multi-Purpose Room) – 9:30 A.M.

Tuesday, the 5<sup>th</sup> -- Tuesday Bridge (Multi-Purpose Room) – 1:00 P.M.

Wednesday, the 6<sup>th</sup> – Hand and Foot (Game Room) – 2:00 P.M.

Thursday, the 7<sup>th</sup> -- Cribbage (Conference Room) – 2:00 P.M.

Movie Night (Multi-Purpose Room) – 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, the 9<sup>th</sup> – Bean Bag Baseball (Multi-Purpose Room) – 9:30 A.M.

Monday, the 11<sup>th</sup> – Veterans' Day Program (Multi-Purpose Room) – 2:00 P.M.

Tuesday, the 12<sup>th</sup> -- Tuesday Bridge (Multi-Purpose Room) – 1:00 P.M.

Wednesday, the 13<sup>th</sup> – Duplicate Bridge (Meeting Room and Office) – 1:00 P.M.

Rummikub (Game Room) – 2:00 P.M.

Thursday, the 14<sup>th</sup> – Bulky garbage/recycling pickup

Poker (Game Room) – 2:00 P.M.

Pizza Dinner (Multi-Purpose Room) – 4:30 P.M.

Saturday, the 16<sup>th</sup> – Bean Bag Baseball (Multi-Purpose Room) – 9:30 A.M.

Tuesday, the 19<sup>th</sup> -- Tuesday Bridge (Multi-Purpose Room) – 1:00 P.M.

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Wednesday, the 20<sup>th</sup> – Hand and Foot (Game Room) – 2:00 P.M.

Thursday, the 21<sup>st</sup> -- Cribbage (Conference Room) – 2:00 P.M.

Saturday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> – Bean Bag Baseball (Multi-Purpose Room) – 9:30 A.M.

Monday, the 25<sup>th</sup> – Crime Book Club (Library) – 6:30 P.M.

Tuesday, the 26<sup>th</sup> -- Tuesday Bridge (Multi-Purpose Room) – 1:00 P.M.

Wednesday, the 27<sup>th</sup> -- Duplicate Bridge (Meeting Room and Office) – 1:00 P.M.

Rummikub (Game Room) – 2:00 P.M.

Saturday, the 30<sup>th</sup> – 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.

## **MEN'S GROUP**

Each Wednesday morning at 10:00, a group of men are meeting at the Community Center for coffee and chatter. Prairie Villagers are always welcome to join in.

## **Handbell Choir Concert**

Come join us on Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, for some majestic music, some silly music, some pretty music, some seasonal music, and perhaps some inspirational music. Everyone will find something to enjoy! The choir will perform in Olm Fellowship Hall at 10:00 A.M.

## **UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS:**

**Movie Night** -- Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 P.M.

Sorry, the movie night had to be switched because of other circumstances for this month. Please be understanding. I know you will enjoy this heartwarming movie, **Arthur the King**.

This inspiring movie celebrating the human and animal spirit is the incredible true story of Michael Light (played by actor Mark Wahlberg) and the bond he forges with a scrappy street dog dubbed Arthur the King. Light, a professional endurance racer desperate for one last win, convinces a sponsor to back him and puts a team together for the punishing Adventure Racing World Championship in Santo Domingo. While navigating the brutal course, Light and his team meet Arthur, who refuses to leave their side. Pushing the team to the outer limits of endurance and sacrifice, Arthur redefines for Light what victory - and friendship - truly mean.

## **Veterans' Day in Prairie Village - Monday, November 11th**

All Villagers are cordially invited to a program in the Community Center to recognize and honor the 14 Veterans who live in Prairie Village, and also the surviving spouses and children of several more Veterans who are no longer with us. As part of the program, 7 Prairie Village Veterans will share their experiences in the military. These men served in all parts of the world and in all branches of the Armed Forces. Their stories, some thrilling, some humorous, are not to be missed.

We will meet at **2:00 P.M. on Veterans' Day, Monday November 11<sup>th</sup>**, in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Community Center.

Thank you! Thanks to the Village for attending events planned for by the Social Committee over the past year. We appreciate your interest and participation and would like to express our thanks.

Please come to our Pizza Dinner on November 14<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center. We will gather at 4:30 P.M. and plan to eat at 5:00 P.M. Jim Olm will provide music at 6:00 P.M.



Do not bring a dish to pass. Do not bring a monetary donation. Just bring YOU. We will have a pizza meal including the pizza, salad, dessert and beverage. Please sign up at the Community Center and tell us what you prefer from the pizza menu. We hope you all can come!

### **Vagabond Diners – Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**

Enjoy dining out during the Christmas season! We're going to the **Stagecoach Inn** in Fort Atkinson. I'm including this in our November newsletter as it's scheduled for the beginning of December and there will be limited time for signing up. Seating time is 5:15 P.M. We will carpool from the Community Center. Call Judith Moldenhauer at (262) 473 4055 if you would like to go. Limited sign up of 15 people.

## **CRIME BOOK CLUB**

The Crime Book Club met on October 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss our latest book, *The Lie Maker* by Linwood Barclay. It was an interesting discussion with a lot of input from the members regarding the character development and the significance of the title as well as which character was actually 'the lie maker'. A poll was taken by the fearless leader on who liked the book and who did not. 9 yes, 2 no and 1 not so much. Obviously, the yeses won hands down!

Our read for the month of November will be *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides. This author is highly praised by A. J. Finn, David Baldacci, Lee Child and many more, so this should be an entertaining read.

Our meeting to discuss this book will be on Monday night, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. in the Library at the Community Center. **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DAY—MONDAY NOT WEDNESDAY!**

Our thoughts and prayers are with our member Jeanne Shiras. Hoping for a complete and fast recovery.  
Kathy Schumacher

## **Social Events Scheduling for 2025**

It has come to my attention that Prairie Villagers would like to have the monthly social events scheduled for the same day each month.

The two proposed dates are the second Friday of each month or the second Thursday of each month.

The social team is seeking to hear from all Prairie Villagers as to which of these dates you would prefer.

Please call Judith Moldenhauer at 262 473 4055 and, if I'm not available to answer the phone, leave your **Name**, and state your preference of **Thursday** or **Friday** on my answering machine.

Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Prairie Villagers Organized to CARE:**

The Community Care Teams were originally organized by Gary Fry and Sue Brey in 2019. All who serve on the Teams eagerly volunteered to serve on the Teams, and this year, 2024, marks the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Care Teams. To these fellow Prairie Villagers we extend a thank you for their extraordinary generosity of time and resources.

Sue Brey

### **CARE Teams and Team Leaders**

Providing Temporary Meals: Colleen Endisch at 262.325.1460

Community Center Library: Kathy Ross at 262.472.0154

Community Center Kitchen: Jerri Stevenson at 920.723.5560

and Beth McCulley at 262.458.2460

Welcome to Prairie Village Visitations: Jeanne Shiras at 262.753.8035

(and Sue Brey at 262.458.2311)

Fitness Program Yoga: Phyllis Schmidt at 414.467.1365

Home Respite and Medical Equipment Loans: Steve Lade at 414.312.4090

Community Social Events: Judith Moldenhauer at 262.473.4055

Rice Share: Sue Brey at 262.458.2311

AV Tech Community Center: Tom Dosemagen at 262.458.2346

Prairie Village Directory/Welcome Packet: Wayne DeLoach at 715.501.0917

Community Center Calendar: David Yochum at 262.473.7889

(Voice of the Village People) Village News: Nelda Bergsten at 262.472.8854

## **Notice from the Kitchen Committee:**

We are planning to clean the refrigerator and freezer on November 22, 2024. If you have any items in either place, please label them and if perishable also date when they were placed in refrigerator /freezer. Anything that is not labeled will be thrown out. Thank you for your corporation.

If you have any questions, please contact Jerri Stevenson at 920 723-5560.

The Kitchen Committee

The Fairhaven Employee Christmas Fund is getting ready to provide the donation money to the eligible employees in early December. I am looking for 3-4 volunteers (who can write or print clearly) to address the red envelopes. There are about 100 to address in just a few days at the end of November ( between November 22<sup>nd</sup> and December 4<sup>th</sup>).

If interested please email or call Karen Christofferson at 608-807-6858 or [christoffkaren9@gmail.com](mailto:christoffkaren9@gmail.com).

## **Bethel House**

They can use pillow cases, sheets, towels and blankets. They are always looking for dressers. I recently helped two families here. Took some things over. If you are having to move, you can call me if you have some things to donate – 262-473-5783.

always looking for dressers. I recently helped two families here.

And I am still collecting egg cartons.

Thanks, Elizabeth Asher

## **Library Update and More**

### **Christmas Books**

I will put our collection of Christmas books out in mid-November. They'll be on the Recent Donation table in the Library until early January – enjoy!

### **Our Little Free Library**

Jim Schumacher has asked Maintenance to move our Little Free Library to his house for winter refurbishing. So, if you see it's not there, that's what's happening. If you want any of the books that were there, I have them. Thanks, Jim!

## Olive Crowley's Donations

Should you (or anyone you know) be a special fan of Sherlock Holmes or James Harriot, DVM, you may want to see what Olive left us. There's a 600+ page Complete Work of Sherlock Holmes and a coffee table-size pictorial history (lots of movie memorabilia). There are six of the Harriot books, including All Creatures Great and Small. I'm not inclined to put them in the Library, so any or all can be yours – let me know if you're interested.

### Why Read Large Print (and Not Apologize for It!)

There are many reasons to read large print, including:

- **Accessibility:** Large print is easier to read for people with visual impairments, reading difficulties, or who are spending a lot of time in front of a screen.
- **Improved comprehension:** Large print can help readers improve their letter and word recognition, reading comprehension, and confidence.
- **Reduced eye strain:** Large print can help reduce eye strain from looking at a computer screen or exercising.
- **Faster reading:** Some readers find they can read large print faster and understand it better.
- **More uninterrupted reading:** Large print can help readers read more uninterruptedly.
- **Easier place tracking:** Large print can help readers track their place more easily.

(This information resulted from my searching “Why read large print books?” and was produced by artificial intelligence (AI-you may have heard about it!). Maybe that's a first for our newsletter?! I've experienced every one of these advantages of large print, so some of it might be relevant to you?)

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Fiction, mystery/thrillers, history, and “people” donations are always welcome for our Library. Leave them in the cooler on my porch (881 BOT), or I'll come get them. And, it goes without saying, I hope, that I'm always grateful when I see neighbors walking home with books from our Library or find the return box full.

If you've got suggestions or questions, let me know. Thanks to everyone who supports our Library in any way.

### Etc.

#### **Where to Find Books Besides Our Library While the Whitewater Library is Closed**

Remember this headline from last month's newsletter? All those alternative book sources remain true, but I failed to mention the Senior in the Park Library (which is remarkably dumb since I take care of it, too). It's a smaller collection than ours or Fairhaven's, but most of the books have been published in the last five years. If you've not checked it out, stop by. There's a collection of Large Print and a special collection of World War II history. It's available almost anytime the Senior Center is open. There's a large collection of puzzles there, too. (As of this writing the Whitewater Library's website shows a late October re-opening date.)

## **Christmas Decorative Items for Bethel House Families**

Should you have Christmas items and/or trees that you'd like to donate to Bethel House (Whitewater's service for families in need with children in the Whitewater School District), please leave them on the bench on my porch (not in the book drop off cooler), or I'll come get them. Last month I said Christmas "ornaments". This month I'm saying "decorative items" since one of you asked if they'd use other Christmas decorations, which I'd expect they will.

### **Prescription Bottles**

Thanks to those of you who continue to contribute empty, clean and unlabeled prescription bottles. Please do your best to get all of the label off. I've talked to one of the volunteers who delivers them to HealthNet of Rock County, and some require additional clean-up. Obviously, those might not include any of ours, but clean inside and out is essential for this project. You can leave them in the cooler on my porch, or I'll come by and get them.

### **Greeting Cards!!!!**

On behalf of the Friends of Fairhaven, thanks to those of you who have donated \$208 for our greeting cards since late August! For a few weeks, we'll be having the 2<sup>nd</sup> Greatest Card Sale, all general cards -- donate what you can. We have quite a collection of Thanksgiving cards which will be available sometime the weekend of the 9<sup>th</sup>. Then we're back to a suggested \$1.25 donation for each.

Kathy Ross

## **TRUNK OR TREAT**

There were 11 trunks plus one golf cart decorated for our 'Trunk or Treat' event. There were 22 people "treating" outside in the group photo, plus a couple others who joined us in the Community Center for the after party. It was especially nice to see Bob Cunningham and the elusive Lori Stoneking-Cunningham. It was rumored that the 3 witches were a "coven".

Gary Fry







## Strawberry Bug

A bug of unknown species found an inviting leaf to hide beneath with a feast ready to be enjoyed. I found evidence of its visit at breakfast this morning. Whether it was safe from pesticides there, I don't know. Clearly it had enjoyed a hearty meal while it lasted. There aren't a lot of safe places for wild ones to live. We've treated nature as our reserve. As we've colonized the earth we've planted strawberries, built roads and occupied the land as though it's ours. In the beginning that was not her intent.

10/13/2024 (Gerry Bertsch)



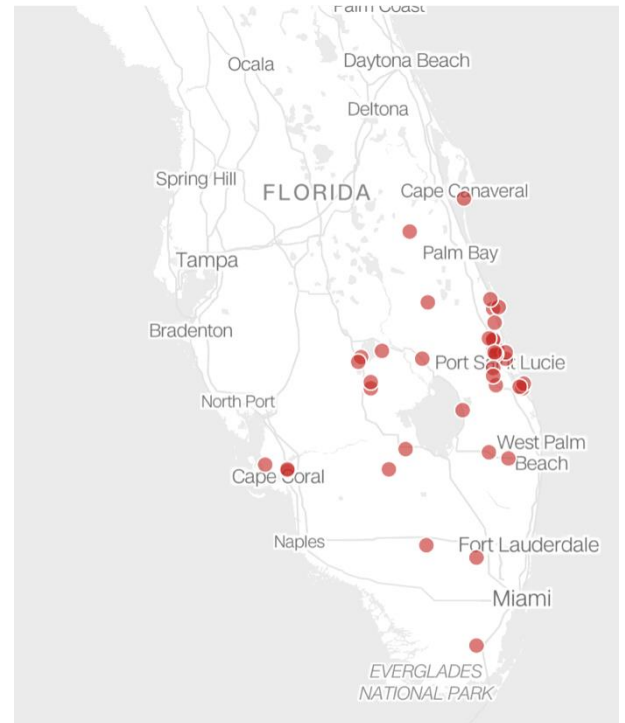
Carol Moldenhauer got a photo of this lone drake early this month.

## **The U.S. gets a lot of tornadoes! Hurricane Milton generated at least 30 tornadoes in Florida!**

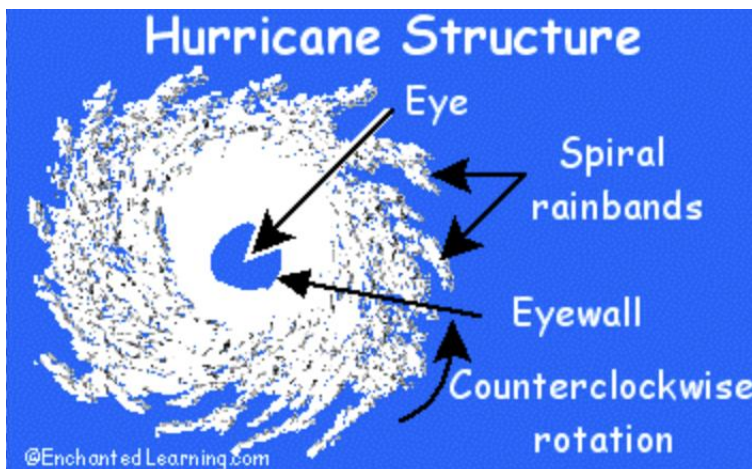
The U.S. experiences the greatest number of tornadoes in the world. No other country comes even close. Why is this? Three basic reasons:

1. The Rocky Mountains are orientated roughly north-south. This allows cooler air from Canada to collide uninterrupted with warm, humid air from the Gulf of Mexico over the central and eastern parts of the country.
2. Dry air over western U.S. can easily move east/northeast across the Plains states. This dry air, in some cases, increases the severity of the storms. Folks in Oklahoma and Texas are familiar with the “dry front” that enhances storms over those states.
3. The U.S. experiences hurricanes which consist of thousands of thunderstorms, some of which orientate themselves into curved bands that rotate around the hurricane eye. Tornadoes can occur in these bands which have a lot of embedded spin.

To the right is a preliminary plot of tornado locations in Florida related to Hurricane Milton (generated by CNN). These tornadoes received a lot of media attention and caused a lot of damage.



Below are two images. The left image shows an idealized hurricane structure and its “eye” as well as the spiral rainbands (thunderstorms) what can spawn tornadoes. The satellite image shows a well-defined spiral rainband.

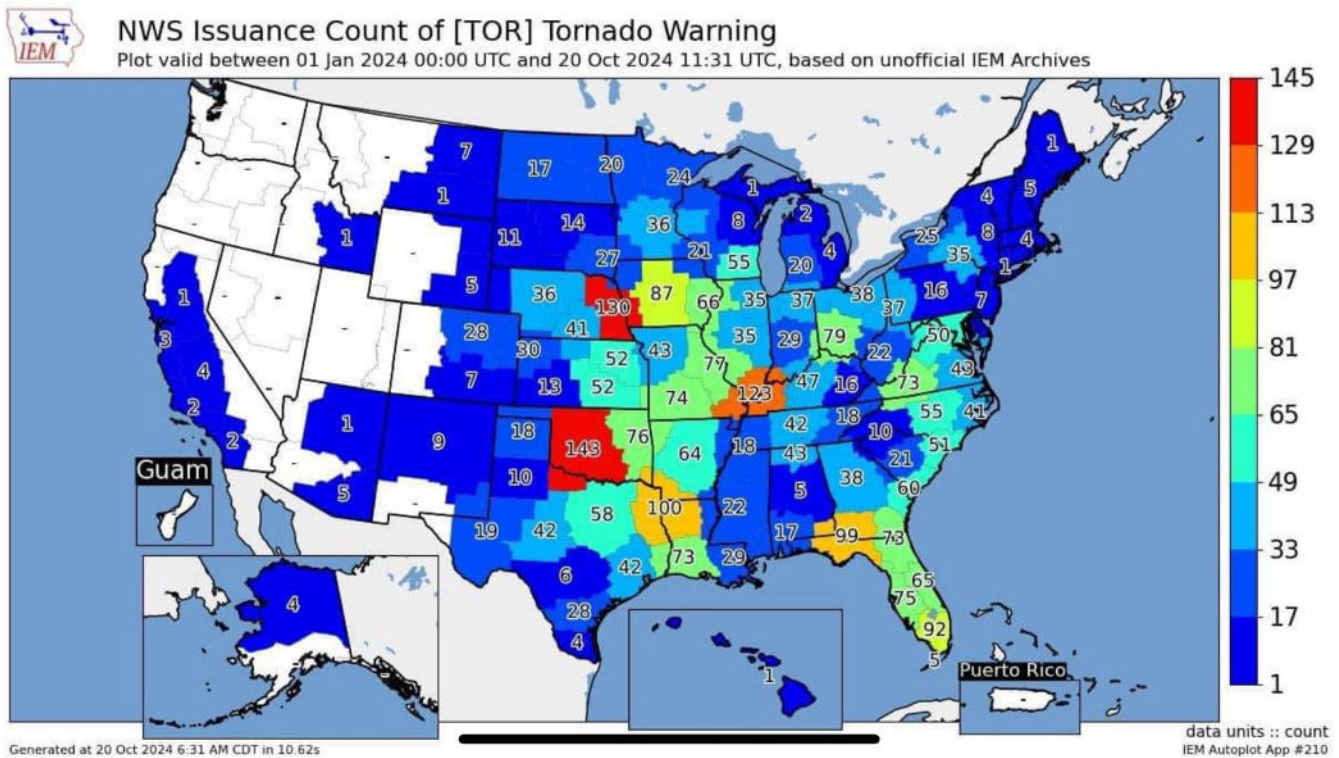




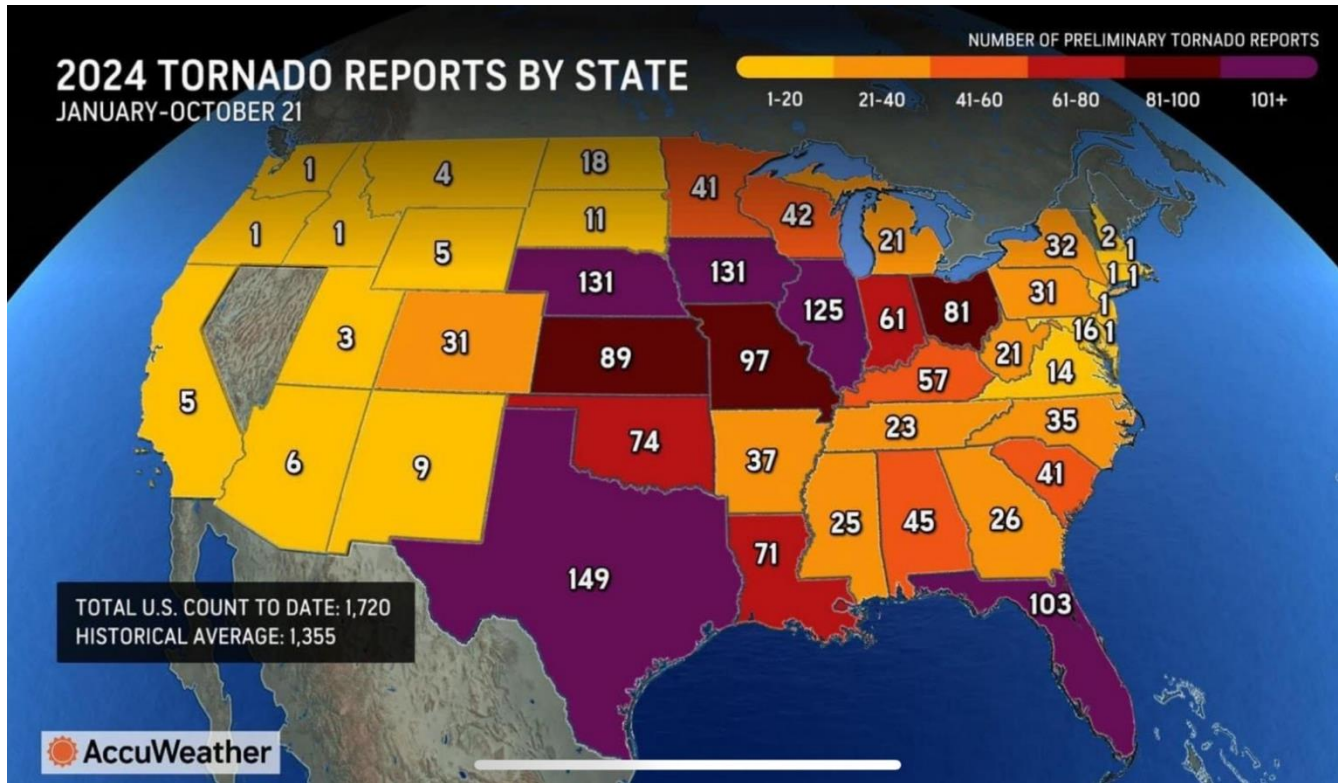
The U.S. average about 1350 tornadoes per year and the year of 2011 had the highest total of 2074. Canada averages about 230 per year. Europe averages about 200. Australia gets about 50 tornadoes yearly followed by New Zealand and Japan with both at 20. Other countries that average fewer numbers of tornadoes include Argentina, Brazil, India, Bangladesh and South Africa. Tornadoes are rare in China and Russia.

Of course, 2024 was a busy tornado season across the U.S. Wisconsin had its first recorded tornado in February! Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio got into the tornado act in the spring months as well.

Your NOAA National Weather Service has 122 field offices that service the country, each with its own geographical area of responsibility. The size and shape of each office’s area varies – some are large and some are small. Each office issues a variety of warnings for their areas, including tornado warnings. Below is a map plot showing the number of tornado warnings issued by each office in 2024 – October 20<sup>th</sup>. However, just because a tornado warning was issued doesn’t mean a tornado occurred. The Oklahoma City/Norman office issued the greatest number of tornado warnings.



The last image below shows the actual tornado bean-count, by state, for 2024 through Oct 21<sup>st</sup>. Note that Texas has the largest total with 149. However, Texas is a large state. Iowa has had 131 and it’s a significantly smaller state. No tornadoes have occurred in Nevada, Vermont or Maine this year. These numbers are preliminary and may change by the end of 2024. Of course, tornado totals will vary in each state from year to year.



### Common tornado myths:

- Tornadoes don't hit large cities
- Tornadoes don't go down into river valleys
- Tornadoes don't go over hills or mountains
- Tornadoes don't go over swamps/bogs/wetlands/water
- Tornadoes are attracted to mobile/manufactured/trailer homes
- Opening your windows and doors will equalize the air pressure and your home will not explode
- Thunderstorms always split when they approach my location so I will not have a tornado
- If there is no visible funnel cloud then there isn't any tornado
- It is winter, so tornadoes can't occur in my location

### Common hurricane myths:

- Winds are the deadliest aspect of hurricanes. Actually, the storm surge and heavy rains account for 88% of all hurricane-related deaths.
- Sea-surface temperatures are warm, therefore the hurricane will only intensify. Nearby dry air and wind shear at the jet-stream level can affect hurricane strength more.
- **The {insert your location here} bubble/dome/shield will keep my location safe this year. Ask people who live in the coastal area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut about Hurricane Sandy...and folks in North Carolina and Tennessee about Hurricane Helene.**
- The Federal Government is controlling and steering the movement of hurricanes as well as intensifying them with weather modification chemicals....in order to inflict pain and suffering upon people. Folks, this is a totally false conspiracy theory!!! The technology doesn't exist in order to control hurricanes and tornadoes!!!