

Celebrities



Associated Press

"Prairie Home Companion" radio show host Garrison Keillor was pictured Sept. 16, 2009, in his Prairie Home Productions office in St. Paul.

Garrison Keillor: Retirement looms

MINNEAPOLIS — **Garrison Keillor** plans to keep spinning tales of Lake Wobegon's Norwegian bachelor farmers for at least a couple of more years, but the host and creator of public radio's "A Prairie Home Companion" is dropping more hints that his retirement may be on the horizon.

In an interview posted Wednesday on AARP Bulletin's website, Keillor, 68, said he plans to retire in spring 2013. But Keillor said he first has to find his replacement.

"I'm pushing forward, and also I'm in denial. It's an interesting time of life," Keillor told the publication.

Keillor told The Associated Press in a follow-up e-mail Wednesday that he'll be 70 in spring 2013, "and that seems like a nice round number."

"The reason to retire is to try to avoid embarrassment; you ought to do it before people are dropping big hints. You want to be the first to come up with the idea. You don't want to wait until you trip and fall off the stage," Keillor said.

In 2009, Keillor suffered a minor stroke but was back on air three weeks later. He created "A Prairie Home Companion" in 1974. The show is now broadcast on nearly 600 public radio stations and heard by more than 4 million people each week.