

GNOME NEWS

GNOME NEWS IS GOOD NEWS!



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Important Dates

Sat., Oct. 21 – ALA Halloween Soup Supper & American Legion Parade, Costumes & Cake Walk, 5 p.m.

Tues., Oct. 31 – Trick or Treat, 6-8 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 4 – Halloween Candy Buy Back, ALA, 2-3:30 p.m. Community Center

Sun., Nov. 5 – American Legion Christmas Auction, 1 p.m. Community Center

Sat., Nov. 11 – Santa Brigade Breakfast 6 a.m. & Christmas Market 7 a.m., SCAN

Wed., Nov. 15 – Strasburg 150th Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Community Center

Wed., Nov. 29 – SS Seasoned Citizens meet, noon.

Sun., Dec. 3 – American Legion Christmas Auction, 1 p.m. Community Center

Sun., Dec. 10 – Lutheran Churches Christmas Cantata, 7 p.m., St. Paul's Church

Dec. 15-16 – ALA Christmas Store & Cookie Walk, Community Ctr

Sat., Dec. 16 – Santa at Community Center, 9:30-11 a.m.

CHRISTMAS LIGHT CONTEST

The Annual "Light Up Strasburg" Christmas Light Contest will be held this year. Watch for more details.

Bi-Monthly Strasburg Gnome News

Mailed copies \$12/year or free by email: Contact the village office 217.644.3007 or info@strasburgil.com

Hardcopies available at Village Office, Highland Market & Shelby County State Bank. \$1

Message from the Mayor

The leaves are sure changing right now. This is my favorite time of the year. The village is kind of quiet right now. We are waiting to hear about the sewer project and the plans for the pavilion.

- Remember to take leaves to the lagoon or chop them up. Please do not burn them on the street. Make sure your fire is out by dusk. There is no burning after dark.
- Trick or Treat is October 31. Turn your porch light on if you want kids to stop by your house.
- You should have received a letter regarding the electrical rate from Homefield compared to Ameren's rate. The Homefield rate should be cheaper than Ameren and will be a guaranteed rate for the next 6 months. Only return the yellow card if you want to opt out of the aggregate rate and go with the Ameren rate. This is strictly a personal choice.
- There are a couple fundraisers going on for the 150th Celebration next year. You can support the event by buying a ticket for a quilt. It is displayed at the bank. The Queen of Hearts fundraiser at 32 Below every other Friday night also supports the Committee's efforts to provide a good time next June.

There are a lot of events, basketball and volleyball games coming up. Go out and support our community and school.

Thanks for helping keep Strasburg Right! In The Middle of Everything!



Cinda Held



Thank you to our Oct/Nov Gnome News Sponsors:

Windsor Storm Memorial Library (P6)

Watch Communications (P7)

Strasburg ALA Unit Receives Awards



Strasburg’s American Legion Auxiliary Liberty Unit #289 nominated Josh Layton for the Service Member of the Year through the American Legion Auxiliary’s National Security Program. Josh was selected through the Department (state) and submitted to the National Organization. At the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, Josh received the National Service Member of the Year (Marine Reserves) award, presented to him by National President Vickie Koutz. Josh is married to Jenna (Kull) and has three children, Camden, Harper and Paige. *(Left-Josh Layton with National President Vickie Koutz)*



Also at the National American Legion Auxiliary National Convention, Liberty Unit #289 received first place in the Central Division for Community Service report and first place in Central Division for their Junior Activities report. Jill Layton was presented the National President’s Unit Award of Excellence. *(Right-Jill Layton with National President Vickie Koutz)*

Strasburg ALA News



New officers for the 2023-2024 Auxiliary year were installed by Past 19th District President Cinda Held.



Left -New officers back row L to R Bonnie Lawrence, Linda Oakley, Charlene Telgmann, front row L to R Jill Layton, Sarah Wyckoff, Becca Caldwell

Above Right – Strasburg ALA Unit #289 President Sarah Wyckoff with two of the delegates to the 2023 LA Illini Girls State – L to R Estaphani Cuatzozon, Sarah, Anna Tucker



A Star of Life award for a true shining star!

Air Evac Lifeteam flight nurse Dakota Shadwell is being honored after a life-saving event with a mother and preterm baby who weighed only two pounds. Shadwell, a 2016 Stewardson-Strasburg high school graduate and Strasburg resident, is the son of Bruce and Lisa Shadwell of Stewardson.

Shadwell and his partner Kelly Hamill will be going to Washington D. C. next month to receive a national award from the American Ambulance Association for their service. “I was just doing my job. No one gets into healthcare for the recognition,” Shadwell said. “I’ve been at a loss for words from the beginning.” The award landed him on local television stations and newspapers. Congratulations Dakota!

the baby's life.

STRASBURG HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023

SOUP SUPPER	5:00
COSTUMER PARADE	7:00
JUDGING	7:30
CAKE WALK	8:00

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES

UNDER 3 YEARS OLD	OCCUPATIONAL
STORY BOOK & FAIRY TALE	ANIMALS
TV & MOVIE	COUPLE
MONSTERS, GHOSTS & WITCHES	GROUP
SUPERHERO	MISCELLANEOUS
PRINCESS	ADULTS

JOIN US AND COME DRESSED IN YOUR BEST COSTUME

SPONSORED BY AMERICAN LEGION POST #289
SPONSORED BY AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT #289

Strasburg American Legion Auxiliary #289 Sponsors Candy Buy-Back

On November 4th Strasburg Liberty Unit #289 of the American Legion Auxiliary will hold their 4th "Candy Buy-Back" from 2:00-3:30 pm at the Strasburg Community Center. Their mission, to buy-back the excess Halloween candy from the local trick or treaters. The Unit will pay \$1 a

pound for the candy that is brought in. The candy that is collected will be sent to area servicemen to share with their comrades.

HALLOWEEN CANDY BUY BACK

Support Our Troops!

Saturday, November 4th
2:00-3:30 pm

*Bring your Halloween candy to us and we will weigh it and pay you \$1 for every pound (up to \$5)



Strasburg American Legion Auxiliary Unit #289
Strasburg Community Center

*Then we will mail all the candy to our local service men & women!
Help us sweeten a soldier's day

Three Strasburg Veterans receive fall decoration from ALA

Strasburg Unit 289 decorated three Veterans' porches for fall, including a pumpkin containing candy!

Pictured:

Unit members Cinda Held and Ada Foreman (Veteran Rex Foreman was still at work)



The porch of Veteran Ron Thomas' home



Veteran Tom Newell sitting on his decorated porch.

Little Hatchets Soccer & Flag Football 2023

Three age groups (preschool-4th grade) competed in soccer for five weeks and grades 5, 6, and 7 competed in flag football for four Sunday afternoons this fall at the Strasburg Park.

Thank you to SCAN for sponsoring this activity and for the volunteer coaches who worked with the children each week. Soccer volunteers include Chari Howell and Jenna Layton coaching pre-k/kindergarten, Jeff Probus and Steffen Harris coaching 1st/2nd grade, Courtnay Orman and Stephanie Kinkley coaching 3rd/4th grade. Flag football coaches were Josh Layton and Jeremy Pruemer.

Special thanks to Ian Kinkley for officiating the soccer games and to the Strasburg Lions Club for having the concession stand open during the games. The games drew good crowds of spectators and were a lot of fun to watch!

The Little Hatchets, a youth league sponsored by the Strasburg Community Action Network, works with local volunteers to provide activities that teach skills and provide fun for our local youth.

Soccer & Football Fun!



SPECIAL GNOME NEWS INTERVIEW

The Gnome News recently sat down with Josh Layton to discuss the newly sponsored sport of Flag Football. This is the second year that SCAN has worked with Josh as he has developed and expanded the Flag Football program with local students. In 2022, students in grades 5 and 6 participated. In 2023, students in grades 5-7 participated.

Gnome News: What was the reason to incorporate Flag Football into the community?

Josh: As a graduate of Cumberland High School, football was a favorite sport in school and became a passion of mine. I was part of a football program from 5th grade through my senior year of high school. Bringing football to the Stew-Stras area provides an opportunity for additional youth to compete and be involved in a sport.

Continued from P 4: Gnome News: What are your short-term and long-term goals with this program?

Josh: This is our second year offering flag football through SCAN Little Hatchets program. The first year was a unique experience not only for the kids, but also for me. The kids who participated last year were upset when the season ended. Those kids now have a better understanding of the game and enjoy playing football on the playground at their schools. Now that we are about to end our second year, the number of players has increased, the players have a better understanding of game strategy, and games have been more competitive. Fan feedback has been great. The games were enjoyable for the fans to watch.

My short-term goals are to continue offering this sport through SCAN and incorporate 8th graders next year to increase the experience of the game. I have reached out to other representatives that reside in other NTC towns to see if they would be interested in also forming a team to start competition against other teams.

Long term goal is to determine if there is an interest in this sport within the NTC school districts. The Flag Football program will be the baseline to develop interest and support to potentially get an 8-Man football program into the High Schools.

Gnome News: What is 8-man football?

Josh: 8-man football is a growing sport in Illinois. Other states have had 8-man football programs for years, but in the recent years it has been gained popularity in smaller schools that cannot man a full 11-man football program but still want to play the game. As of now 8-Man football is not affiliated through IHSA, and there are 30 teams throughout the state with a post season and a championship.

The games can be scheduled on Friday nights or Saturdays, meaning it is flexible to schedule a game to not interfere with other sports. The football field is smaller than a normal football field and can be set up inside of a track.

Gnome News: The NTC has a strong standing with fall baseball; won't this interfere with the fall baseball season?

Josh: If a school, students, and community are interested in adding this sport, a dual athlete could potentially play both sports. Football can also be beneficial for baseball. There are many college and pro athletes who were standouts in both sports as there are similar skill sets required for each sport.

Gnome News: How expensive would it be to start a program?

Josh: Starting this program would be an investment, however, there are ways to assist in getting many of the expensive items. There is a process where larger schools can lend out equipment or sell used equipment that is still good. There are grants and other sources of money that can assist with the expenses. I know this is not something that will happen overnight and will take support from the communities to commit in assisting each school and the NTC.

Gnome News: Why should the communities support this idea?

Josh: Support from the communities is vital to establishing a new athletic program in the school and NTC. 8-man football would offer opportunities (besides baseball and basketball) to many players with different skillsets, abilities and interests as well as add additional seasons for cheer, dance, and pep band.

Flag Football itself has grown and expanded interest not only in the US, but also abroad as the Olympics just added Flag Football to their list of sports for other counties to compete in starting in 2028.

Annual Christmas Cantata
Joint Choirs of the local Lutheran Churches
Sun., Dec. 10, 7 p.m.
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Strasburg
Karen Rentfro, Director

CHRISTMAS AUCTION

STRASBURG, IL

Community Building

Sunday, Nov 5th at 1:00 pm

Outstanding selection of items including,
 Tools, Radio Controlled Toys, Toys, Food Items,
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Strasburg Liberty Post #289 American Legion Hosts Two Christmas Auction Fundraisers

Nov. 5 and Dec. 3

The auction by Thomas Factory Outlet, with Dennis Aumann Auctioneer, is the major fundraiser for the American Legion Post. The Post uses the proceeds from the auction to donate the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Americanism Essay prize money, Legion Baseball, the Strasburg Veteran's Memorial, Community Blood Drive, Stewardson-Strasburg Yearbook, Post Prom Activities, and American Legion Gifts to Yanks among other programs.


Auction items – see flyer. This is the perfect time to do your Christmas Shopping!

A concession stand sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #289 will be available.

Do you know what all you can get with your library card from Windsor Storm Memorial Public Library?

With your card you can check out books and dvds/blu-rays at the library, order books from other libraries within our system to have shipped to our library or any library in our system, or access our online services to check out e-books, e-magazines, and digital audio books right to your phone, tablet, or computer!

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Santa Brigade Breakfast & Market

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST 6-10:30 A.M.

CHRISTMAS MARKET 7-11 A.M.

Contact MaRanda McClain for booth space 217.343.7879

Smoked Sausage Links Available for Purchase by the Pound all Morning or Until Sold Out

LOCATION
 St. Paul's Lutheran Church
 Social Hall & Gym
 111 S. Walnut St. Strasburg



Sponsored by



Freewill Donation
Dine In or Carry Out

Proceeds will benefit community improvements

16th annual Santa Brigade Breakfast & Market

Start your day with an "all you can eat" pancake and smoked sausage breakfast in Strasburg at the 16th annual Santa Brigade Breakfast & Market on Saturday, November 11, to be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 511 S Walnut. The breakfast is from 6-10:30 a.m. and sausage will be available for purchase by the pound all morning or until sold out.

Special Christmas music will be provided during breakfast by the trombone trio of Dr. Ian Kinkley, Stephanie Kinkley and Dennis Lading.

The event will also include a Christmas Market from 7-11 a.m. in the school gymnasium. Come and support the local small business owners who will help you jump start your Christmas shopping with one-of-a-kind handcrafted gifts. For more information contact MaRanda McClain at 217.343.7879.

~Remembering~

Ralph E. Schultz, 95, of Strasburg, IL (*December 17, 1927 – September 15, 2023*)

Ralph was born on December 17, 1927 in rural Strasburg, IL, the son of Clarence A. and Celia F. (Kull) Schultz. He graduated from Windsor High School in the Class of 1945. Ralph was a lifelong farmer. He married Helen J. Durre on July 10, 1955. She preceded him in death on November 3, 2018. He was a member of Grace Lutheran Church, Strasburg and Shelby County Farm Bureau.

Ralph is survived by his twin sons, Terry Schultz (Chris) and Gary Schultz (Cheryl) all of Strasburg, IL; one brother, seven grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, and one great great grandchild.



Former resident

Tobias F. Kircher, Jr., 95 of Effingham, IL, formerly of Strasburg, IL (*February 7, 1928 – October 14, 2023*)

Tobias was born on February 7, 1928, the son of Tobias F. Kircher, Sr. and Frieda (Schrimpf) Kircher. He was baptized on February 21, 1928 by Rev. E.F. Mueller and confirmed on April 26, 1942 by Rev. L. Stuebe at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Strasburg, IL. He attended St. Paul's Lutheran Grade School and graduated from Strasburg High School with the class of 1946. He was a lifelong farmer. Tobias married Melba Rose Acklin on April 8, 1972. Tobias is survived by his wife, Melba of Effingham, IL; four children, six grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.



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LEO Sneaker Project

The Stewardson-Strasburg High School's LEO club, sponsored by the Strasburg Lions Club, is partnering with the Lions of Illinois Foundation in a program called "gotsneakers?". This is a way to raise money for vision and hearing programs as well as reuse and recycle sneakers. (Dress shoes, heels, rain boots, sandals, slippers, water socks, wedges, and work boots are not acceptable.)

If you have new or old sneakers, please tie the pair together by their laces and donate them at one of the locations the LEOs have placed a donation box. These places include the Shelby County State Bank in Strasburg, First National Bank of Waterloo in Stewardson, Trinity School, Stewardson-Strasburg High School, St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Strasburg, Strasburg Community Center, Beecher City/Stewardson Clipper Journal office in Beecher City, and Sacred Heart School in Effingham.



All reusable sneakers from their sneaker drive program are recirculated to secondhand markets so people can access quality, pre-owned footwear at affordable prices. All heavily used and damaged footwear are recycled to reuse materials or to convert waste into new energy. The collection of shoes will continue until May.

Pictured are the LEOs who made the collection boxes – Ella Kinkelaar, Morgan Mathis, Anna Albert, Briar Smith



**PO Box 385
Strasburg, IL 62465**