

GNOME NEWS

GNOME NEWS IS GOOD NEWS!

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STRASBURG
Right!  *IN THE MIDDLE OF EVERYTHING*
 2013 WINNER
 GOVERNOR'S
 HOME TOWN AWARD

Important Dates

Little Hatchets meet every Monday Jan. 6-Feb. 24.

Wed. Feb 26 – Stew-Stras Area Seasoned Citizens, Noon, Community Center – Casseroles!

Wed., Feb. 26 – Seniors & Disabled Information and Assistance, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Community Center, Funded through CCSI-Case Coordination Unit LLC

Sat. Feb. 29 – Lions Pancake, Sausage, Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast, 6:30-10 a.m.

Fri., Mar. 6 – Stew-Stras Class Play, 7 p.m., High School

Monday, Mar. 16 – 6:30 – Village Board Meeting

Tuesday, Mar. 17 – Primary Election

Fri., Mar. 27 – Lions Club Fish Fry, 4:30-7 p.m., Community Center

Wed., Mar. 25 – Stew-Stras Preschool Round Up, Call the school at 682-3355 or 682-3621 to set up an appointment.

Tue., Mar. 31 – SCAN Quarterly Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Community Center

March 31 – Deadline for Strasburg Community Grant Applications.

Sat., Apr. 11, American Legion Auxiliary Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m., registration at 9:45 a.m.

Message from the Mayor

Well Strasburg, let's start thinking Spring. What's on your To-Do list? I have several things on Ed's To-Do list, but that's a different article. OK, there are things coming up we don't want to forget to do.

- This is a census year. I was reminded when I read the newspaper this morning how important it is to be counted. The village gets state and federal dollars based on our population and which representative district we are in is decided. Beginning March 12, you can complete census information online, via phone, or by paper questionnaire. After Apr. 27 if your house has not replied, personal visits will be made by census takers. So, make sure you get counted.
- In case you haven't heard there is a primary election March 17. For better or worse we need to help decide who will run for president. Signs are starting to go up around the area supporting candidates. Be informed.
- We are beginning our journey for making Strasburg Park renovations. As we begin having fundraisers to help with costs, please show your support by attending. We have not heard about our PARC application yet, but there are always things to pay for. The softball diamond will get a new facelift first. A crushed red-brick surface will be applied as the weather improves.
- As spring rains approach, let's make sure our ditches are clean. The village is continuing to replace culverts and improve drainage throughout town.
- Remember not to put grease and oil down sink drains, they solidify into huge logs that are hard on our lift station pumps. Also do not put wipes or other hygiene products down your toilet. Even though they say they are flushable, they are not bio-degradable and are hard on the grinder that goes to the lift station. We want to save money in repair costs.
- The village needs less than 25 homes to show interest in the fiber optics line coming to town. If you need help, contact Linda or me, MaRanda McClain or Justin Krile.

We need to continue to work together as a community and as neighbors to make our village a hometown that we are proud of. We can accomplish much more together than by working alone.

Let's keep Strasburg Right! In the Middle of Everything!



Support the Strasburg Lions Club with their upcoming breakfast and fish fry. Thank you Lions!



Strasburg Lions Club

Pancake & Sausage Breakfast



Saturday, February 29, 2020

6:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Location: Strasburg Community Center
Cost: Free Will Donation
Menu: Pancakes, Sausage, Applesauce, Drinks
New This Year: Biscuits & Gravy

Proceeds go to fund community projects & to help the visually and hearing impaired.
Your attendance is appreciated!

All You Can Eat Breakfast!



AYCE FISH FRY

Or 8 Pc Shrimp Meal -- Kid's Meals Available

Friday, March 27: 4:30-7 pm

Menu

Fried Fish (AYCE) or
8 Pc. Shrimp Meal
Side: Scalloped Potatoes
Side: Apple Sauce
Drinks
(Homemade Tartar Sauce)

AYCE Fish-Scalloped Potatoes-Applesauce & Drink: \$10
8 pc. of Shrimp-Scalloped Potatoes-Applesauce & Drink: \$10
Kids under 12: AYCE Fish-Scalloped Potatoes-Applesauce & Drink: \$5
Kids under 12: 4 pc. of Shrimp-Scalloped Potatoes-Applesauce & Drink: \$5

Strasburg Lions Club

Event held at Strasburg Community Center



Jim Weiss awarded District Lion of the Year

At the January Strasburg Lions Club meeting two special guests, District Governor Lion Dave Johnson and First Vice District Governor PDG Bill Wallpe (below), were on hand to award Strasburg Lion Jim Weiss as District 1M Lion of the Year.



grown to 61 members due to Jim's leadership. Lion Jim also orders the food for the different fundraisers and helps with other Lion activities.

At right, Jim is shown (center) with Strasburg Lions Club President, Charles Doehring and Jane Giertz Strasburg Lion who wrote the nominating letter and is also District 1M Zone Chairman.

District 1M is comprised of 60 Lions Clubs throughout East Central Illinois and is a sub-district of Lions Clubs International. Jim was nominated for his work as the high school LEO Club Leader. The Stew-Stras LEO Club has



Seasoned Citizens Meet

The Seasoned Citizens met on December 18, for their Christmas get together. Only 11 members attended, but there was lots of fun had by everyone. The food was good as usual and everyone exchanged gifts, which were a pair of Christmas socks. Two games were played with the winners getting prizes, and lots of Christmas stories were shared.

The group met again on January 29th with 21 present. We shared soup and lots of desserts. An old friend, Jerry Maddox, who has moved away to Martinsville came and brought his chili. It was good to have him visit us and he enjoyed being here. After the meal, we had the tip of the day by Chuck Wade and a joke by Patty Reed. The door prize was furnished by Kay Condor and won by Barb Vonderheide.

Village Clerk Linda Oakley made her announcements of upcoming events. February 23rd will be Basket Binga at the Community Center at 2 p.m. here in Strasburg. Strasburg Lions Club will serve their pancake and sausage breakfast on February 29th, and this year they will also serve biscuits and gravy.

This group of seniors has such a good time for a couple of hours on the last Wednesday of the month, and anyone who is 55 or older is welcome to join us at 12 o'clock noon for a lunch and fun. February is going to be a casserole lunch. Everyone is bringing their favorite and will share and of course there will be desserts. Hope to see some new faces.

Submitted by Jane Giertz

Strasburg Community Grant Applications due March 31

The Strasburg Community Foundation Board of Directors would like to remind the community of the upcoming annual grant opportunity. Grant applications will be accepted by the Foundation Board of Directors from January 1 – March 31, 2020. Projects will be funded for one year and prior grant recipients may re-apply. The Board will make annual grants to groups or individuals who use their projects to enhance the quality of life for citizens of the community. The Foundation generally will not fund a request at 100 percent. Amounts and projects chosen will depend upon funds available for the year. Only 62465 zip code applicants will be considered. If you wish to be considered for funding or if you have any questions, please contact a Strasburg Community Foundation Board member – Jodie Quast, Larry Giertz, Ramona Radloff, Tim Lenz, John Helton or Courtney Wittenberg. Justin Krile, SCAN President, serves as an ex officio member.

Grant applications can be picked up at the Village office.

Help kids scrub away some worry with a donation to the “hygiene closet”

A “Hygiene Closet” has been started at Stew-Stras Schools to help some of our less fortunate students in our local area. Please consider donating one of the following items (regular size items): shampoo, conditioner, hair brush/comb, toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, mouthwash, body wash/bar soap, lotion, deodorant, shaving cream, bandages, triple antibiotic ointment, lip balm, feminine products, small bottles of laundry detergent and fabric softener. Items will be dispensed by guidance counselor at school. Collection boxes can be found at SCSB, Stewardson Bank, Strasburg Community Center and Brew Bank. If you have questions, please contact MaRanda McClain, marandamcclain@yahoo.com, 217-343-7879.

Part IV of V, HERE and THERE in Shelby County

By Beulah Gordon

Articles and Poems Covering Years 1818-1936

Collected And Edited By Shelby County Historical and Genealogical Society
1973

STRASBURG

FIRST SERVICES IN 1866

These German farmers took up much of the remaining good land. "Hardworking, frugal, intelligent, they soon made the prairie into fertile, productive farms. Better homes, better barns, better horses, and cows were gradually added to the general wealth of the community. They were a religious people and soon founded St. Paul's congregation." Their first services were held in a barn on the Rincker homestead south of Strasburg in 1866. The congregation grew and thrived and a parochial school was soon added. In 1875, the present St. Paul's Lutheran Church was built in the south part of town.

Life was difficult in those days. Farming was grueling hard work, and much of what is now the best land was covered by low, stagnant marshes where innumerable mosquitoes bred, and spread the miserable "chills and ager and malaria far and wide." Quinine sat on the table in those early days like the sugar bowl.

As Strasburg began to develop it became a typical pioneer town. To it, as to every other town that was started in those days, came gamblers and rowdies. Fights and gun play were indulged in – though no killings were ever reported – and the village enjoyed more local color than peace of mind. Law and order in the person of a marshal with a three foot club, were often scoffed at, for culprits when pursued had the disconcerting practice of running, jumping over a fence (located between where E.M. Beck's Clothing Store and William Swigart's Garage now stand) and, safe outside the city limits and the jurisdiction of its law, expressing in lurid and derisive terms their candid opinion of it. As the town grew this element subsided and at length disappeared.

INCORPORATED IN 1882

The town of Strasburg was incorporated in 1882, and thereby hangs a tale. After the Lutheran church was built at its present location about a quarter of a mile south of Strasburg, some of the citizens began to agitate for moving the business houses there. Lawrence Zerr, then postmaster, took his post office to that section, and a store, drug store, saloon, and grain buying office were soon established in "South Burg." This rival of the original town was located just over the line in Prairie township. Ostermeier and the citizens of "North Burg," sensing the danger that threatened, decided to incorporate the town and exclude the upstart "South Burg" from its limits. This course demanded the utmost prudence and diplomacy. Secret meetings were held in a garret over the blacksmith's shop, and ways and means were plotted and discussed. Here it was brought to light that thirty votes were needed to carry the measure, and that "North Burg" had only twenty-eight citizens to support it, while "South Burg" had thirty citizens who would vote it down. But, after some thought, Ostermeier and his followers schemed a scheme, and cautiously set about to execute it. Three young fellows from the country were induced to bring their washings to "North Burg," spend their Sundays in that place, and thus establish a legal residence there. When the specified time had elapsed and the three were bona fide citizens of the village, the North Burgers demanded a vote on the matter of incorporation, and strange to say, triumphantly won the election by the majority of one ballot. (GN Editor note: The Village of Strasburg was actually incorporated in 1874.)

LICENSES FIXED AT \$500

When the town was incorporated license for the saloons was fixed at five hundred dollars. Later as business expanded the amount was increased until at one time Strasburg had four saloons paying a thousand dollars license each.

The Bernhardt Milling Company was brought from Shumway after the building there had been destroyed by fire, some time in the '90's. Business men paid five thousand dollars for this industry, and it was a very important addition to the community. For a time people from all over the country came to Strasburg to get their grain ground into meal and flour.

BANK ORGANIZED IN 1902

The Strasburg Bank was organized in 1902 through the efforts of Martin Hamm who persuaded a group of Shelbyville business men to become its first stockholders. (Henry Faster, Jr., is now president of the institution.)

The first money crop planted around Strasburg was wheat. At one time special trains were run to the town during harvest season. As time went on most of the marsh land was reclaimed and made tillable by tiling. In this way much of the best land, especially that north of town, was made available for farming. About Strasburg it is no uncommon thing for one farm to have as much as two or three miles of tile.

In passing it might be interesting to note the unique record of the Faster family as concerning the postmastership of Strasburg. In 1881, Henry Faster, Sr., was appointed postmaster and held his office until 1885, when Grover Cleveland was elected. In 1889 he was again appointed and served the four years Benjamin Harrison was Chief Executive. When Cleveland was elected in 1893 a Democrat became Strasburg's postmaster, but in 1897 when McKinley went into the White House, Faster was again appointed and served until his death in 1920. At this time his son, William Faster, was appointed to fill his place and served continuously from 1910 until April 1, 1934, when the present postmaster, George Kull, was appointed. Thus for forty-four years of the town's sixty a Faster has been postmaster in Strasburg.

Stew-Stras High School Drama Club presents "The Best Worst Day of My Life"

Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$4 for Senior Citizens, \$3 for students, and ages 4 and under are free.

**"The Best Worst Day of My Life" will be presented
Friday, March 6 at 9 a.m.
and again at 7 p.m.**

Story Line: Max Griffin, geeky aspiring filmmaker, and Amanda Hughes, the most popular girl in school, are having the worst day of their lives. The school bully has stolen the only copy of Max's new screenplay, while Amanda has just been dumped and humiliated by her boyfriend in front of the entire student body. So Amanda and Max, who have never before spoken a word to each other, decide to team up and help each other in hopes of turning the atypical school day into the best worst day of their lives.



Cast list: Rachel Kessler, Kiefer Reel, Zach Cox, Lance Lankow, Lainee Turner, Mackinzee Reynolds, Mackenzie Brown, Brianna Hewing, Trey Sayers, Brody Beals, Daniel Davis, Tyler Wetherell, Dawson Boys, Katie Arthur, Emma Sayers, Graci Ogle, RaeAnn Smith, Sierra Cameron, Jacob Allen, Lexi Agney, Kassie Vonderheide, Kaleb Arthur, Reagan McCormick, Martina Gratz, Thomas Davis,

Hannah Weaver, Maddie Rincker, Samuel Vonderheide, Maggie Kelly, Gavan Wernsing, McKenzie Holtz, Jacob Gracey, Gage Ordner, Taylor Dasenbrock, and Claire Moomaw. The show is under the direction of Sara Long.

Lighting Contest Winners

Congratulation to the Village December Christmas Light Contest

Halmark Winners: 1st Tom & Amber Wallin, 2nd James Noffke, 3rd Roger & Marilyn Kull.

Judge's Choice Winners: 1st Jared & Caralea Smith, 2nd Dale & Bonnie

Vonderheide, 3rd Tom & Leslie Newell.

A special thanks to all who helped to "Light Up Strasburg."

ALA Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 11 at 10 a.m.
Registration begins at 9:45 at the Strasburg Park

All are Welcome!



Uncork & Unwind!

Anyone else tired of fighting the winter blues and need to get out of the house for a Day Out?

We have a solution! Join us for a fun afternoon of wine and coloring and get you a ticket to the SCAN Uncork and Unwind fundraiser for the Strasburg Park improvements.

Sunday, March 1, 2-5 p.m.

Vahling Vineyards

\$20 per ticket includes complimentary wine glass and one serving, adult coloring books, door prizes and finger foods. Let Brittany Kaufman or MaRanda McClain know if you need a ticket.

Learn How Grandparenting Matters

Sundays, March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

4:00-5:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Social Hall
511 S. Walnut, Strasburg

Would you like to impact your grandchild's life, faith and legacy? Learn about being an intentional Christian Grandparent and help parents raise the next generation to know, love and serve God.

Each of the five sessions is an independent topic, so don't worry if you cannot make each session.

Topics include: The amazing influence of a Grandparent, What the Bible says about grandparenting, Reaching the heart of your grandchild, Overcoming the barriers of distance, and The eight best practices of Christian grandparenting.

Participants are encourage to register ahead by calling Patsy Lenz at 217-825-9173.

Everyone is welcome!

Sponsored by St. Paul's Mission Outreach Committee

2020 Strasburg Public Events & Celebrations

Hosted by Village of Strasburg and non-profit organizations

Date	Event
Jan. 6-Feb. 24	Little Hatchets Sports Club, 5:30 p.m., St. Paul's Gym, Sponsored by SCAN
Jan. 28	SCAN Quarterly Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 29	Seasoned Citizens-Noon
Feb. 26	Seasoned Citizens—Noon
Feb. 29	Lions Club Pancake Breakfast, 6:30-10:00 a.m., Community Center
Mar. 1	Uncork & Unwind, 2-5 p.m., Vahling Vinyards, SCAN Park Fundraiser
Mar. 2–May 18	Biggest Loser Contest, SCAN
Mar. 26	Seasoned Citizens
Mar. 27	Lions Fish Fry – 4:30-7 p.m., Community Center
Mar. 31	SCAN Quarterly Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Apr. 11	American Legion Auxiliary Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m., registration at 9:45 a.m.
Apr. 29	Seasoned Citizens
May 22, 23	American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Days
May 23	Village Wide Rummage Sales, 7 a.m.
May 25	Memorial Day Service at Veterans Memorial
May 27	Seasoned Citizens
May 28	Strawberry Shortcake & Porkburger Meal by SCAN, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Community Center
June 6	Farmers Market Kickoff Breakfast, 8-10 a.m., Strasburg Community Center
Jun. 6-Sept. 5	Farmers Market, 9-11 a.m., Saturdays, Community Center parking lot
Jun. 7	Lions Club Chicken Fry, 4 p.m., at the park
Jun. 14	Flag disposal ceremony at Windsor; Windsor & Strasburg American Legion Posts
Jun. 30	SCAN Quarterly Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Jun. 24	Seasoned Citizens
Jul. 6-10	Vacation Bible School at St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Jul. 17-19	Lions Club Homecoming/Parade
Jul. 19	Lions Strongman Competition/Mower Pull
Jul. 29	Seasoned Citizens
Aug. 26	Seasoned Citizens
Sept. 30	Seasoned Citizens
Sept. 25	Community Wiener Roast
Sept. 26	Fall Village Wide Rummage Sales
Sept. 27	SCAN Quarterly Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 10	Burn Out in the Burg (Car Show), 10 a.m.
Oct. 30	American Legion Halloween Soup Supper & Parade
Oct. 28	Seasoned Citizens
Nov. 8	American Legion Christmas Auction
Nov. 14	Santa Brigade Breakfast & Market
Nov. 18	Seasoned Citizens
Dec. 6	American Legion Christmas Auction
Dec. 12	Soup Supper 4-6 p.m./SCAN-Village Year End Recognition Celebration 6 p.m.
Dec. 12	Santa at Strasburg Community Center
Dec. 11 & 12	American Legion Auxiliary Christmas Store
Dec. 13	Lutheran Churches Christmas Cantata, 7 p.m. St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Dec. 30	Seasoned Citizens



www.strasburgil.com
 Village Office 217.644.3007
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 Strasburg, IL: Right in the Middle of Everything!

Gnome Census 2020

Dig out those gnomes! The famous Strasburg Gnome Census is again planned for 2020!

In conjunction with the U.S. Census, Strasburg once again plans a Gnome Census. Strasburg residents are asked to count the total number of friendly garden creatures at their residence.

Volunteers and village youth will be taking counts via a door-to-door campaign on April 18. If you are not home that day or simply prefer, you may email in your count to info@strasburgil.com. Please include your address and submit by Apr. 13.

The village conducted the first annual Gnome Census in 2010 and receive nation-wide publicity. The census showed nearly as many gnomes as residents in town. Included are photos of the 2010 Gnome Census and article from the Chicago Tribune from 2010.

[Gnome Census: Illinois town plans first garden gnome count](#)

Steve Schmadeke

[Chicago Tribune](#)

Sat, 17 Apr 2010 13:56 UTC



2010 Gnome Census Pictures

Left, Isaac Kramer, Gnome census taker, records gnome count for Karen Kull, holding Oliver Washer.

Right, Gnome census takers Tanner Clark, John Cress and Isaac Kramer patrol the town.



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PO Box 385
Strasburg, IL 62465