

GNOME NEWS

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STRASBURG
Right in the Middle of Everything
2013 WINNER
GOVERNOR'S
HOME TOWN AWARD

Important Dates

Sept. 1. 150th Anniversary planning meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 3. Town Wide Rummage Sales & Bake Sale Fundraiser for 150th Anniversary, 8 a.m.

Sept. 23. Community Wiener Roast & Hayride. Lions Club.

Sept. 27. SCAN Quarterly Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Community Center.

Sept. 28. SS Seasoned Citizens. Noon. Community Center.

Oct. 1. Burrito meal at Community Center for 150th Anniversary fundraiser. Time TBA.

Village of Strasburg

105 E Commercial St.
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Subscribe to the bi-monthly Gnome News for \$12/year.

Copies of the Gnome News are available at Marathon, SCSB and Village Office for \$1.

Receive GN **free** electronically by sending your email address to village office, info@strasburgil.com.

**TOWN WIDE
RUMMAGE SALES
SAT., SEPT. 3
8 a.m.**

Message from the Mayor

Things are happening in the Burg right now. We have several projects in the works.

The Park Committee will meet in a few weeks to begin planning for renovations. The 1st order of business will be to work on plans for the new pavilion. The village still needs about \$150,000 to meet our part of the grant. Contributions are still being accepted to reach this goal.

Tom Newell and Blake Pree have been working on upgrading the lift station at the park. Work is almost done. This project was funded using ARPA money received from the State of Illinois.

Electricity is being sent out to the Sewer Lagoon so we can add aeration to help filter the ponds and meet EPA requirements. This project is also being funded with ARPA funds.

The sewer project with the Stewardson-Strasburg school district is progressing. The village is currently procuring easements from property owners.

Plans have begun for our 150th Anniversary to be held in July 2024. Sue Bowers and Jodie Quast are our Chairwomen. The Anniversary committee has two fundraisers coming up. There will be a bake sale on September 3 during the Town Wide Rummage Sales, and a CASS'S Burrito meal, by Maggie Boldt on October 1.

Many of you know the covered bridge at the park needs repairs. Jack Holland a freshman at SSHA who is working on his Eagle Scout Badge proposed to the village board a plan and budget for he and his troop to repair the bridge. We appreciate his effort on this project.

Make plans to attend the Town Wiener Roast and Hayride on September 23. It's always a good time.

Harvest season is coming up, so please be mindful of slow-moving vehicles. Let's have a safe fall.

Reminders: * Don't burn after dark. * Take your leaves to the lagoon. * Make sure your dogs are on a leash and not in your neighbor's yard unattended.

Together we can keep Strasburg Right! In the Middle of Everything!



Cinda Held

Guest Editorial by Gary Kull

Looking Back.... Moving Forward

During my lifetime, the village of Strasburg has celebrated the Hundertjahrfest (100 Year Festival) in 1974, the Das Strasburger Fest (125th anniversary) in 1999 and now the 150th Festival (yet to be named) of 2024 is less than two years away.

Having served as one of the co-chairs of the 1999 celebration, I know firsthand the enormity of the task which putting on an event like the 150th anniversary of our village entails. To make the birthday party as special as it needs to be, requires participation and input from everyone who is able.

Looking back at some of the materials from prior celebrations, it is obvious that nearly all residents contributed in some way! For instance, there were four people in charge of creating the Centennial book. To assist them, there were 26 contributors of articles, notes and histories. Pictures were loaned by 29 families. Three people took photographs for the book. Five people typed or proofed copy. There were seven ad salespeople. So just for the Centennial Book project alone, there were 74 people who helped. It is clear that the pride of the community has been deep and strong in Strasburg!

Plans are being made to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Strasburg with a festival in July 2024. The festival is being co-chaired by Sue Bowers and Jodie Quast. We appreciate these two ladies volunteering for this significant and sizable task. As a former festival co-chair, I know how much they will rely on committee and others in the community to step up and be involved. The success of the festival will ultimately depend upon how many respond to Sue and Jodie's request for committees, workers and volunteers.

The Gnome News will continue to cover highlights from past celebrations and history as we continue to plan and move toward the 150th. In the meantime, please consider becoming involved in some aspect of planning and participation of the 150th birthday of our special community. The 150th celebration committees are:

Publicity, Fundraisers, Entertainment, Events, Food/Meals, Merchandise, Parade, Museum, Fireworks, Carnival, Pageant, Tractor Drive/Show and other committees could be added if there are volunteers.

"I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him." ~Abraham Lincoln

The next 150th Anniversary Meeting is set for Thursday, September 1, at 6:30 p.m.

Please attend if you can.

The Anniversary Committee would greatly appreciate your participation at the Bake Sale on September 3. Please bring your baked goods around 8 a.m. to Commercial Street. We also need buyers!

Next fundraiser October 1. Maggie Boldt will be cooking up her delicious burritos from CASS' Custard days.



BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER

Saturday, Sept. 3, 8 a.m.

During the Town Wide Rummage Sales



Bring baked items to Commercial Street near the Community Center before 8 a.m.

Contact Sue Bowers or Jodie Quast if you have any questions.

Proceeds will go towards the 2024 Strasburg 150th Anniversary Celebration

They say “If you don't know where you've come from, you don't know where you're going.” As we move nearer to the 150th anniversary of our village, we would like to take some time in the upcoming issues of the Gnome News to be reminded of the early days of Strasburg and learn about the lives of the first settlers.

Strasburg History #1: The following excerpt was taken from “Strasburg, Illinois Hundertjahrfest 1874-1974”

How It All Began

Looking out over this area, we see houses and buildings; highways with cars, trucks, school busses; green fields of wheat that turn yellow in the summer sun; or loads of corn and beans pouring out of the combine. It is hard to visualize how this country must have looked when it was unoccupied except for many wild animals and an occasional band of Indians who called this their home.

It has been popularly accepted that there was a salt lick in what later became the center of town just south of the Nippe Tavern building. (In 2024- small yellow block building east of the Feed Mill) Great numbers of deer would travel long distances and gather here to partake of this mineral so necessary for their well-being. Now and then a hunter would venture into this area and might stay for the summer and return to their native habitat in Kentucky or beyond the Wabash. Throughout the country were a half dozen log cabins. Word spread of the prairie country abounding in wildlife. Some began to stay and plant a few crops to add to their diet of game and fish.

The first reported settler in Richland was David Elliott, who came in 1825. His brother Jacob joined him, and later they set up a horse mill and a still house to avoid having to take their grain to Williamsburg to be ground. Wm. Weeger settled on Richland Creek of the spring of 1826, and his son John and family came with him. On July 4, 1826, John's wife had twin daughters. The neighboring Indians were fascinated with them and made a double papoose for them. This was kept in the family for years.

Two hardy pioneers were brothers John and James Renshaw, who drove hogs from White County. They were so pleased with the country that they returned home, sold out their possessions, and moved, settling on Richland Creek in 1826. John stayed and farmed, but brother James moved on to Shelbyville and later to Decatur.

Soon the covered wagons from the Kentuckians, Virginians, and others cut trails over the unbroken prairies. The first house to be built on the ground now covered by Strasburg, was reportedly a one room home built a stone's throw from the deer lick. The house was abandoned, and the deer ventured back to their salt lick, but in time another and still another frontiersman occupied the shack.

Pioneers trekked westward, and with no roads to follow or obstructions to hinder them, they began to cut their own trails. One trail that was eventually cut began around Centralia and came northward through central Illinois. Strasburg is built the road that was once this trail – the Grand Prairie Trail. It crosses most of the state from south to north just as the Old National Trail does from west to east. This trail became worn by the wheels of covered wagons. Many watered their oxen, horses, and cows in the Richland Creek tributary, which runs through the center of Strasburg. The watering hole was near where York Garage building now stands (2022 Nathan Stremming's Powersport Focus).

Two Strasburg area teens will represent Shelby County as Miss and Junior Miss Shelby County



Representing Shelby County at the Illinois State Fair

Maggie Kelly, daughter of Duane and Angela Kelly, is the 2022 Miss Shelby County. The 19-year-old is starting her sophomore year at Lake Land College where she is the Student Trustee! She plans to transfer to Kansas State University and hopes to become a veterinarian.

The 2022 Junior Miss Shelby County Kinley Chaney is the daughter of Jeremy and Brandi Chaney. Kinley just started her freshman year at Stewardson- Strasburg HS and was just elected as class secretary.



Membership Drive Underway for WSS Sportsbackers

The WSS Sportsbackers organization is ready to roll this year and support the athletic programs of Windsor and Stewardson-Strasburg schools. “There hadn’t been a sports booster club in either school for many years,” noted Jenna Layton, secretary for the Sportsbackers. “We wanted to bring the community together, show pride in the sports programs and support the athletes.” The club’s first project is to provide senior sports banners for all student athletes. The banners will hang in the gym and will include the athlete’s picture.

The membership drive is now underway. WSS Sportsbackers memberships are for anyone who wants to support the WSS athletic programs. Business memberships are \$50 per year. Individual and family annual memberships are \$35. A lifetime family membership is a one-time payment of \$500. Donors will be recognized with signage at each school and will receive a Sportsbackers window decal. After a paid membership, no additional participation is required.



Jenna Layton, right, presents a check to WSS Sportsbacker Treasurer Nikki Worman. Jenna and Josh Layton are the first lifetime family members of this new organization which provides support for WSS athletes.

Members of the Sportsbackers board are Bob Schlechte, Justin King, Katie O’Dell, Jenna Layton, and Nikki Worman. Volunteers are working on offering an online sports apparel store for fans to be able to purchase t-shirts and other apparel supporting the WSS teams.

To join, make out checks to WSS Sportsbackers, and mail to 2806 E 600 North Road, Strasburg, IL 62465. Attn: Nikki Worman. Membership forms may be found on WSS Sportsbackers Facebook page and on the school websites or may be picked up at either school. The WSS Sportsbackers is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and all deductions are tax deductible.



Strasburg Community Action Network News

Join SCAN at their next quarterly meeting on Sept. 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Strasburg Community Center

Little Hatchets Soccer Come out to see Little Hatchets Soccer. Games will be played at the Strasburg Park on Sunday afternoon Sept. 11-Oct. 9 at 1, 2, and 3 p.m. Grade levels are Pre-K/K, 1st/2nd, and 3rd/4th grade. Children must be age 4 by Sept. 1, 2022.



Like our Facebook page “Little Hatchets Sports Club” for updates to scheduling. Contact MaRanda McClain 217.343.7879 or Brittany Kaufman 217.259.1339 if you have any questions.

Little Hatchets Flag Football Flag football is coming to Strasburg. This program is for students attending Stew-Stras, Trinity Lutheran and Windsor who will be going into 5th/6th grade. Games will be played at the Strasburg Park on Sunday afternoons September 11 through October 9 (5 games).



Both Little Hatchets Soccer and Flag Football programs are sponsored by SCAN

Lions Club Homecoming Fun in July

Captain Rat + Good Food + Kids Games + Tractor Pull + Pedal Pull + 5K = Good Times!



Above: One week old Oaklyn (daughter of Lions Jesse & Mariah Williams) attends her first Strasburg Lions Club Homecoming. Crowd at the Captain Rat Contest. Band member sings to Melissa Luce on her birthday.

Below: Children get ready for the water balloon toss. Finn Friese is overjoyed at catching a water balloon during the kids' games. Tractor pull contest has big turnout. Harper Layton at the pedal pull contest.



Left: From Carrie who lives south of Findlay

One of my friends gave me your email and told me that you would love this for your gnome newsletter. We had a huge oak tree that fell over in a storm. It left us with an eye sore until the gnomes took over. Now I have my husband building a door and a ladder. We want to add a chimney and windows on the log. We are having fun with it.

Strasburg Gnomecoming 2022 5K Results

Open Female – Megan Shaw

Open Male/Overall – Tanner Clark

Male 13 & Under:	1. Camden Bloemer	2. Holden Ashmore	3. Grayson Bloemer
Male 14-19:	1. Dalton Shadwell		
Female 20-29:	1. Allison Pemberton		
Male 20-29:	1. Austin Probst	2. Kane Pree	
Female 30-39:	1. Lindsay Altgilbers	2. Carolyn Reed	3. Chelsea Greuel
Male 30-39:	1. Aaron Sieben		
Female 40-49:	1. Allison Wirth	2. Amy Briggs	
Male 40-49:	1. Tony Blochmer	2. Stock Bale	
Female 50 & Over:	1. Mary Tabbert	2. Ladena Lambert	3. Carol Powers
Male 50 & Over:	1. Matt Sherer	2. Scott Klingler	3. Jeff Wiedemer



13 & Under: Holden Ashmore 2nd, Camden Bloemer 1st & Grayson Bloemer 3rd

Lading Family celebrates farm Sesquicentennial Status at State Fair



The Lading Farm near Strasburg is the latest to be recognized as a Sesquicentennial Farm in Illinois.

To qualify a straight or collateral line of descendants must own the agricultural property for at least 150 years.

Current owners are Dwight and Melvina Lading. Melvina is the fourth-generation family member to own the land.

Frederick Luedke bought the 80-acre plot in 1871. The land was passed to his daughter Marie Mueller, to her son Albert Mueller, and now to his daughter Melvina.

Centennial, Sesquicentennial and Bicentennial Farms were recently recognized at the Agriculture Day breakfast on August 16 at the Illinois State

Fair. Speakers included Jerry Costello II, Director of Agriculture, Governor JB Pritzker, Addisyn Calloni, Miss Illinois County Fair Queen, and Juliana Stratton, Lt. Governor.

Ninety-eight Centennial, 83 Sesquicentennial, and 6 Bicentennial Farms were recognized during the breakfast. Attending with Dwight and Melvina were their children, Dennis Lading, Debra and Darrell Wittenberg, Karen and Gary Kull and Kendall Lading.



Strasburg Legion Auxiliary Brings Home Awards from Department Convention

American Legion Auxiliary Liberty Unit 289 installed new officers at its meeting August 9. Officers are: President Sarah Wyckoff, vice president Becca Caldwell, secretary and historian Jill Layton, treasurer Linda Oakley, chaplain Charlene Telgmann, and sgt-at-arms Bonnie Lawrence.

- The unit agreed to decorate once again the porches of local veterans with fall decorations.
- The unit agreed to take part in the Stewardson-Strasburg Truck or Treat.
- It was decided to do the Christmas Tree Fundraiser again.
- Blue Star Banners will be purchase for the families of the four young men who are currently in basic training.

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Cinda Held, Linda Oakley, Jill Layton and Sarah Wyckoff recently attended the Department Convention and Liberty Unit 289 of Strasburg won seven 1st place awards for reports submitted. Jill Layton was installed Department Historian, and Linda Oakley was installed as Department Sgt-at-Arms.

Front row, from left, are Cinda Held, Sarah Whyckoff and Junior Member Abby Brown; back row, Jill Layton and Linday Oakley.



~We Remember~

Roy Wilson Reed, Jr. (August 9, 1947 – July 14, 2022)

Roy Wilson “Butch” Reed, Jr., 74, of Strasburg, IL, was born at home on August 9, 1947 in Strasburg, IL, the son of Roy Wilson and Fern (Spannagel) Reed, Sr. He graduated from Stewardson-Strasburg High School in the Class of 1965. Butch proudly served his country in the U.S. Army from 1966 until he was honorably discharged in 1968. He was a lifetime member of the Strasburg American Legion Post #289 and the National Rifle Association (NRA).

He is survived by his son, Roy Reed, III and wife Mary of Stewardson, IL; sister, Nancy Slifer of Shelbyville, IL; four grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Nina Reed, and brothers-in-law, Keith Snyder and Russell Slifer.



Wilma L. Spannagel (May 25, 1933 – July 29, 2022)

Wilma Lou Spannagel, 89, of Strasburg, IL, was born on May 25, 1933 in Clarksburg Township, Shelby County, IL, the daughter of Warren E. and Esther Grace (Hunter) Ragan. She attended Grade School and High School in Strasburg. Wilma married Lloyd Ray Spannagel on December 8, 1949, in Strasburg, IL, and he preceded her in death on January 20, 2012. Wilma was a member of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Strasburg. She enjoyed sewing, cooking, gardening, making pies and spending time with her family.

Wilma is survived by her son, Gregory John Spannagel and wife Michelle of Shelbyville; daughters, Dianna Lynn Gibson of Strasburg, Patricia Ann Williams and husband John of Pana, and Barbara Lou Ohnesorge of Strasburg; brother, Merle Ragan of Effingham; grandchildren, Jason Spannagel (Amanda), Ashley Holmes (Stephen), Danell Condron (Tim), Abbey Giles (fiancé Ricardo “Coco” Salgado), Joshua Spannagel (Beth), Chelsey Weber (Mike), Dylan Ohnesorge (Amelia), and Collin Ohnesorge; 18 great grandchildren; and sisters-in-law, Ruth Kohnert and husband Robert and Donna Schultz and husband Larry.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Lloyd; brothers, Rollin and Robert Ragan; sisters, Rosalie Schultz, Carol Jones and Corma Hurst; and son-in-law, Donald Gibson.



Eva I. Braden (August 11, 1923 – August 19, 2022)

Eva Irene Braden, 99, of Strasburg, IL, was born on August 11, 1923 at home in Strasburg, IL, the daughter of Edward F. and Edith I. (Kull) Reel. She graduated from Strasburg High School. While attending Sparks Business College in Shelbyville, she worked for the Shelbyville Daily Union. She later worked at the Shelby County Courthouse, St. Anthony’s Parish, Stewardson-Strasburg School District and the Village of Strasburg. Eva married Arthur E. Braden on December 15, 1946 in Strasburg and raised five children. She was an active member of Grace Lutheran Church in Strasburg, IL. Eva enjoyed gardening, walking, playing cards and loved being a grandmother.

She is survived by her daughters, Margaret Opfer (Rodger) of Shobonier, IL, and Janet Louthan of Surprise, AZ; sons, Dwight Braden (Vicky) of Strasburg, IL, and Larry Braden (Marla) of Strasburg, IL; sister, Maurine Kull of Allen, TX; brother, Wayne Reel of Mattoon, IL; grandchildren, Melanie Beville (Lawrence), Nathan Opfer (Diana), Nicholas Braden (Kara), Jocelin Devlin (Bob), Lora Burt (David), Patrick Braden (Maria), and Buddy Braden (Emily); 16 great grandchildren; and one great great grandson. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Arthur Braden on October 22, 1974; son, John Braden; and sister-in-law, Lavetta Reel; and brother-in-law, Floyd Kull.



July Gnome Winner

Paraiso recipient of SCAN Monthly Gnome Give-Away

Each month from **May to July** one village resident has won a free Garden Gnome, compliments of the **Strasburg Community Action Network**. The July winner is Diane Paraiso, a long-time resident of the Burg.

Growing up in a home on West Commercial Street in Strasburg, this house was purchased by Diane's grandma, Lena (Doehring) Wilson. As a newly married wife to "Tud" Charles Wilson, Lena worked at a local hatchery. She saved her money and was able to purchase a home from her sister-in-law. Diane's family later moved in with Lena and Tud, and little did she know that she would one day own that home herself.

Diane is a graduate of Stewardson-Strasburg High School and Southern Illinois University-Carbondale with a degree in Legal Secretary. She was recruited to work for the CIA in Washington D.C. and did so for seven years. She then returned to Strasburg, attended Sparks College in Shelbyville and received a certificate from the State of Illinois for Court Reporting. Her career as a Court Reporter continued for 25 years. Besides living in D.C., Diane also lived for a time in Manila where her son Gus was born, as well as a year in Atlanta, GA and a year in Florida.

Diane is likely the only one in town who has the distinction of living in ten different homes in Strasburg, two of which she had built. In 2016 Diane bought back the home she grew up in and completely renovated it. She now enjoys retirement with her dog Rufus and cat Tucker.

"You can't replace the people you've known all your life", commented Diane when asked what she liked about living in Strasburg. She loves her home and has lived by some of the same neighbors for many years. Congratulations Diane!



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