

GNOME NEWS

GNOME NEWS IS GOOD NEWS!

info@strasburgil.com

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STRASBURG
Right in the MIDDLE of EVERYTHING
2013 WINNER
GOVERNOR'S
HOME TOWN AWARD

Important Dates

Thursdays, Jun.-Aug. Strasburg Farmers Market, 4:30-6 p.m., Community Center Parking Lot

Wed., Aug. 28 – Seasoned Citizens meet. (See page 4)

Saturday, Sept. 14 – Shortstop 10 Year Anniversary

Friday, Sept. 27 – Village Wiener Roast sponsored by Village and the Lions Club

Saturday, Oct. 12 – Burn Out in the Burg Car Show and Exhaust Competition, Village Wide Rummage Sales, and Lions Club Oktoberfest meal. (See page 6)

Strasburg Gnome News

Available electrically: Send your email address to info@strasburgil.com

Hardcopies available at Shortstop, Village Office or Shelby County State Bank, \$1

VILLAGE OF STRASBURG

Monthly Board meetings 3rd Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Office Hours Mon., Wed., Thur. 8 a.m.-Noon & 1-4 p.m.

Phone 217-644-3007

info@strasburgil.com

Message from the Mayor

I hope many of you have been able to get away this summer and enjoy time with your family. I want to thank the Lions Club for their hard work for the annual homecoming and Tractor Pull. Despite the heat, people did venture uptown for the weekend festivities.

Thanks also to Joe, Todd and Bill for working up the roads and helping with the oiling. Because of the increased gas tax, Strasburg will hopefully see an increase in the motor fuel tax (MFT) money to continue the upkeep of our roads.

I'd also like to acknowledge Tom Newell for working on the wastewater lagoons. His work should improve our wastewater test results and lower the amount of sludge at the bottom of the lagoons. Please do not put grease down your garbage disposal. We are getting huge grease logs in the lift station that is hard to get rid of. Wet ones and other wipes are also not good for the lift station pumps. Please be mindful of these products. The village has had to spend over \$35,000 on repairs and new pumps in the last 2 years.

Our current website is being revamped. We will also be adding new features that will be useful to our residents. We will let you know when it is accessible.

August 16 was the first day back to school for our school district's children. Please be watchful when students in town get on the bus between 7:30 and 8 a.m. and getting off the bus between 3:30 and 4 p.m. Remember, do not pass a bus when the red lights are on and the stop arm is out.

As Fall nears and leaves begin to fall, it is time to rake leaves. You can bag your leaves and take them out to the lagoon for burning. According to our Burn Ordinance 93-3, you may burn leaves in town, but please be considerate of your neighbors who may have breathing problems. We ask that you do not burn on the street because that is not good for our oiled roads. If you burn in the ditch, make sure it burns all the way. Ashes and leaves left in the ditch can lead to drainage problems. Residents should not burn before sunup or after dusk. This excludes fire pits or campfires for wiener roasts. Garbage cannot be burned within the village.

All village residents are invited to the following events: Community Wiener Roast- Sept. 27, Fall Rummage Sale- Oct. 12, and Burn out in the Burg – Oct. 12, featuring a German meal served at the park hosted by the Lions Club.

Let's all remember to keep Strasburg...Right in the Middle of Everything.



Cinda Held

Gnomes find new home

Story by Bekah Kobielnik, Strasburg

About 5 years ago we had a tree cut down, but kept the stump for Stanley to try wood carving. That idea never happened. So as the years passed and the stump still remained, I asked him what he thought about the stump becoming a Gnome house. Ideas juggled in our heads over the months, and with him being over the road he had seen a few. When he came home he would show me pictures and we shared ideas. Soon the idea was coming to life.

I started cleaning off the bark and pulling away the grass to see where the doors could be in set, Stanley designed the roof and our youngest daughter, Dawnikah, helped him put it together. She used a circular saw to cut the wood shingles and helped him nail them to the tar paper. Stanley also designed and built the chimney pipe, doors and windows. I finished it off with the brick laying and the landscaping. We have four gnomes at the moment. We already had two in our flower beds, one from my father and the other one, well because....we live in Strasburg, and who wouldn't have a Gnome?

The first gnome for the "Gnome House" came from my oldest daughter Erika Davis who is actually frightened of them. Then Stanley recently purchased a camping gnome, adding to the family. We have plenty more ideas in our heads for balcony, steps, and other add-ons in the future.



Bekah is the Assistant Manager at Shortstop. She came to Shortstop after County Market in Shelbyville closed and they are delighted to have her. Her husband Stanley is a truck driver for Trinity Logistics Group out of Dallas, Texas.

Back to School at Stew-Stras & Trinity Lutheran Schools

At **Stewardson-Strasburg**, each high school student will receive a Chromebook to utilize at school and at home. Chromebooks are available for use in the classroom for junior high and elementary students.

New staff at Stew Stras: New interim Superintendent Kenny Schwengel recently retired from Arthur School district and lives in Shelby County comes with 33 years of experience in education. Justin Deters has become the elementary school principal and Cody McCollum has taken the position as new high school principal. Cody has been a teacher at Stew-Stras for five years.

Sara Kramer is the new guidance counselor. Courtney Koebeil is the new science teacher. Nikki Worman is teaching 1st grade. Ashley Dunnaway is teaching 4th grade. Ian Kinkley is back on staff as the band/music teacher.

Trinity Lutheran in Stewardson is excited to share news of a few changes! Miss Sonja Gulbrandsen has joined the staff as our new 7th/8th grade teacher. Sonja comes to us from Naperville, IL. She is a Concordia, Nebraska graduate and has had many years of teaching experience from preschool through 8th grade! She is excited to serve at Trinity and also to NOT have a long commute since she is now living next door to the school! Mr. Gurgel and Mrs. Jesgarz are sharing the principal duties for this school year. Trinity is blessed to have the rest of the staff back for the 2019-2020 school year! Our theme this year is 'Let Us Fix Our Eyes on Jesus' Hebrews 12:2.



Trinity Lutheran Staff

Below is a story of Strasburg history, a portion from the book, *HERE and THERE in Shelby County* by Beulah Gordon. Gordon was born in 1909 in the Sulphur Springs Community near Windsor, Ill. She attended Eastern Illinois State Teachers College until the Depression forced her to quit. She loved to write and wrote columns for the Shelbyville Daily Union, Mattoon Journal Gazette and the Bloomington Pantagraph.

Disclaimer: The information was taken verbatim from the book and spellings (of names, etc.) were the author's.

Parts II-V are scheduled for future editions of the Strasburg Gnome News.

Part I
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

For some the royal road to romance leads from Killarney to Mandalay, from Rome to Timbuctoo and up and down the perilous expanse of all the seven seas. Those travelers we understand, but do not envy. The seven seas are damp and Rome has beggars. The royal road that we shall take is Route 129, and our port of destination is Strasburg, Richland township.

Arrived, let us turn time back to the year 1800 when the great Northwest Territory was divided into two parts, and the western half which included our state of Illinois, christened The Indian Territory.

For a record of those early days we quote from a short history of Strasburg written by Dr. W. F. Schroeder.

"The ground on which now stands the town of Strasburg was part of the grand prairie extending between the Ohio and the Mississippi River. Evidences of Indian habitation are found a few miles southwest of town where many arrow-points, tomahawks, medicine bowls, etc., point to probability of a battle fought perhaps long before Columbus came to America.

"Beginning the history of Strasburg at 1800 A.D., the first bit of history of the place is the record of a deer-lick in what is now nearly the center of town. (In the lot behind Lauren Hamm's restaurant). The deep trails worn by deer and other wild game, when the lick was discovered, gave evidence of perhaps hundreds of years of use.

SPARSELY SETTLED

"Throughout the country were a scarce half dozen log cabins built by men who had either fled from the law in some eastern state or who loved the utter solitude of a lonely life in the wilds. Living on a bit of corn, some beans, and the bounty of nature in the form of game, fish, berries, nuts, etc., theirs was a life of ease and contentment.

"By and by men from Kentucky, Virginia and other states beyond the Wabash, bent on exploration and exploitation drifted into and through that area of which Strasburg is now the business center. With the advent of winter they again drifted south and southeast, spreading the news of the wonderful prairie country abounding in deer, prairie chicken, grouse, quail, rabbits, squirrels, and many fur-bearing animals. Soon the covered wagons of the Kentuckians, Tennesseans, Virginians, and others began to cut trails over the unbroken prairies. The first house to be built on the ground now covered by Strasburg, was built a stone's throw from the above mentioned deer lick. It was a one-room shack made of poles. The owner was a restless soul like most of the squatters, and within a short time abandoned the hut to seek his pot of gold at the end of some other

rainbow. The deer again ventured back to their salt lick but in time another and still another frontiersman occupied the shack.

"The trekking of pioneers from Kentucky and other states seeking the route of least obstruction, eventually cut a trail that began at the south central part of Illinois in the general neighborhood of Centralia and then came northward striking near the present town of Strasburg. In fact, Strasburg was built on the road that once was the trail. This trail became known as the Grand Prairie Trail. It crossed most of the state from south to north just as the Old National Trail does from east to west.

"Eventually another log house was built on the ground that was later to become Strasburg, followed years later by still another. This last log cabin is still standing and being lived in by William Faster and his sisters. It is part of their lovely home and from both its external and internal appearance gives no evidence that it was built of solid logs and so long ago as to defy the memory of the old timers.

"The Grand Prairie Trail became worn by the wheels of the covered wagons on their way from the southeast of the Sangamon country. Many watered their horses, oxen, and cows in the tributary to Richland Creek which tributary runs through nearly the center of Strasburg. This watering hole was hear the place where now stands G.C York's modern garage. (GN Editor note: The G.C. York's Garage building was later Kull Appliance Center-Gary Kull and is now Powersport Focus, Inc.-Nathan Stremming.)

Stewardson-Strasburg Area Seasoned Citizens Tour Effingham County Museum

Seventeen Stewardson-Strasburg Area Seasoned Citizens journeyed to the Effingham County Museum on Wednesday, June 26. There were welcomed by volunteer guides Delaine Donaldson, LoElla Baker, Jerry Katz, Linda Ruholl and Allen Westendorf.

Our tour began in the courtroom on the main floor learning how Effingham was settled by native tribes, followed by mostly German descendants that came to American for a better life. We were guided through five different gallery rooms depicting areas from WW1 through the rest of the wars. We viewed pictures, clothing and personal items of the men and women from Effingham County and surrounding areas who had served in each war. They also had pictures and items from the St. Anthony Hospital fire, doctors and lawyers who established their office here and displays with miniature buildings of the businesses in Effingham.

Our final stop was on the floor above which is being recreated to look like the original courtroom used back in the era of President Abraham Lincoln. We also marveled at the painting artistry in the center of the ceiling which is being created and painted by Dr. Ruben Boyajian.

Everyone enjoyed the tour of the museum and was very appreciative of the volunteers that were so informative. Concluding the tour, everyone enjoyed lunch at Joe's Pizza.

You are invited!

Stewardson-Strasburg Area Seasoned Citizens

Wednesday noon, August 28, 2019

Strasburg Community Center



911
DISPATCH

Featured speaker:
Tina Daniels, Communications
 Supervisor from Effingham
 County, managing the 911
 system



EMERGENCY
 POLICE CALL
 FIRE
 MEDICAL **911**



Meal time: 12:00 Noon
Menu: Pasta Plus,
 pasta casseroles and salads,
 topped off with **DESSERTS!**



Bring something to share.
 Drinks and tableware are furnished.

Enjoy potlunch, visiting with friends, important news,
 door prize and tip of the day.

Bring a friend! Hope to see you!

Dave Cruitt, Shelby County Board Chairman, was the guest speak at the July 31st gathering at the Strasburg Community Center.

2019 Grants Awarded for Strasburg Projects

The Strasburg Community Foundation has announced this year's grant recipients. The following organizations were awarded grants for 2019 projects: 1. Strasburg Lions Club, \$2,400 for park improvements on the basketball court; 2. Village of Strasburg, \$1,500 for acoustic tile at the Community Center; 3. Powersport Focus, Inc., \$1,000 for store canopy; 4. Strasburg Community Action Network, \$750 for concrete pad for car show event.

"We are pleased to be able to award grants worth \$5650 this year," said Jodie Quast, Foundation Board member. "The Strasburg Foundation Endowment Fund is a wonderful asset that can be used to assist our small community with needed projects," added Justin Krile, SCAN President. "Our hope is that all current and former residents of Strasburg will give back to this community as they are able. This will allow our small village to be viable for the years to come. Any size donation is important!"

The Strasburg Community Endowment Fund is a charitable entity to which funds may be donated to support improvements and development to enhance the community of Strasburg. It was created in 2008 as a goal of MAPPING (Management and Planning Programs Involving Nonmetropolitan Groups) the future of your community meetings in Strasburg. The Strasburg Community Endowment Fund is overseen by the Strasburg Community Action Network and grants are awarded annually. Endowment funds are managed by the Southeastern Illinois Community Foundation. Donations to the Strasburg Endowment Fund can be made through their website <https://www.enrichingourcommunity.org/> or call 217-342-4988 for more information.

The 7th Annual Strasburg Strongman/Woman Event was a hot success!

Take a breezy and hot July day and a firetruck and usually what you first think of might be a field fire. But at the 7th Annual Strasburg Strongman/Woman Event held recently, the athletes heated up the Strasburg Park! The event, held during the annual Strasburg Homecoming, boasted 37 athletes from through the Nation. It is a United States Strongman sanctioned competition and it kicked off with the Star Spangled Banner, sang by Zachary Shelton, age 10, of Strasburg.

The competition then was underway. It was comprised of four events: Firetruck pull: which is using a harness and rope to pull the village's 10,000 pound fire truck for the fastest time; Farmers Walk: which is done with weights but a replica of a farmer walking with two large, heavy buckets for the fastest time; Log Reps: which is as if a logger was hauling in a large log for as many times possible; and Max Floor Dead lift: which is a sheer strength event of who can pull the most weight off the floor and to the waist.



Jordan Donaldson, and Altamont native, lifted a whopping 730 pounds in the deadlift competition. DeAdrea Lynn Meyers, a Teutopolis native, and also Donaldson's wife, also competed. The couple now reside in Bloomington, had a baby earlier this year, and have another child, but stated they feel it is important to demonstrate to their children that this level of a sport is part of their overall health. They supported each other to first place finishes in their areas.

The meet was highly competitive, but a trait of the strength sports world is to treat each other as family and not try to bring others down. All the spectators and athletes cheer each other on to do their best. Also this year had a record 50 sponsors. The Strasburg Lions Club, with the help of Brian Shelton of Strasburg, have established this event has one of their biggest fundraisers of the year. All proceeds of this event go to the Strasburg Lions Club.

Donate now:

<https://www.enrichingourcommunity.org/>

Strasburg Community Improvement Fund
(short-term projects)

or

Strasburg Community Improvement Endowment
(permanent fund which is used to award grants)

Strasburg Homecoming – the annual town favorite



The homecoming was also overall a great success. All three days of the event held unique offerings, such as a ribeye steak and pulled pork dinner, a parade and entertainment by the Mary Bryant Singers, the annual tractor pull, pedal tractor pull and kids games, and finally a garden tractor pull.



At the close of the event on Sunday, rain showers hit the area, barely making it to close on time. But as always, a July shower is welcome in Strasburg!





Burn Out In The Burg
 Auto Show 11-3pm (Registration at 10 am)
 Exhaust Competition 1 pm
 Burn Out Competition 2 pm
 Winners announced at 3:00

BURN OUT COMPETITION
 Auto Show & Exhaust Competition
 Cash Prize for Exhaust & Burn Out Competition
Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019
 City Park, Commercial St. Strasburg IL 62465
 Call 217.343.5686 for event information.
 Check Out Our Facebook Event page for more details. www.facebook.com/BurnOutInTheBurg

**Strasburg Town Wide
 Rummage Sales
 Saturday, October 12**



**Oktoberfest Meal
 Served by Strasburg Lions Club
 Sat., Oct. 12, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Serving Bratwursts, German Potato
 Salad, Red Cabbage, Sauerkraut,
 Applesauce, Chips, Porkburgers
 and Hamburgers**

Remembering

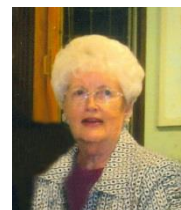
Joy Eileen Rincker Lenz, 99 (August 8 1919-July 30, 2019)

Joy's walk through this life reflected her strong faith, service, and love for others. She helped her husband with farming and raising cattle and hogs. Joy was a member of St. Paul's Luther Church where she was an active member of the Ladies Aid Society. She enjoyed being a homemaker, baking, gardening and hand-quilting. She was able to drive her car until age 98. Joy was preceded in death by her husband Erwin of 60 years. She leaves behind children, Larry (Patsy) Lenz of Strasburg., Margaret Swank of Neoga, Arlene (Ferd) McCormick of Stewardson, and Cathy (David) Allen of Arthur; 10 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.



Phyllis Anne Evans Pieper, 83 (April 13, 1936 - July 29, 2019)

Phyllis was born in Decatur, IL and graduated from Cumberland High School. She married Glenn Pieper on September 3, 1955. Phyllis worked for Illinois Consolidated Telephone Company in the business offices at Mattoon, Charleston, Shelbyville, Pana and Effingham. She was a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Strasburg, IL. Phyllis enjoyed reading, shopping, mowing the lawn, and working in her flowers. She is survived by her husband Glenn, children, Steve (Jean) Pieper of Strasburg, IL, Sid (Lori) Pieper of Henry, IL, and Shawn (Summer) Pieper of Grandview, TX, and five grandchildren.



Gail Marie Tabbert Rincker, 89 ((January 31, 1930 - June 27, 2019)

Gail was born in rural Stewardson, IL. She married Dale F. Rincker, September 20, 1953. She was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Ladies Aid, Shelby County Home Extension holding several offices and Past President of the Strasburg American Legion Auxiliary Liberty Unit #289. She was a 4-H leader for the Bonnie Belles and Strasburg Tailtwisters for over 20 years. She is probably best known for all the auction sales she attended in the area and her huge collection of teacups and tea pots. She is survived by children: Cinda (Ed) Held, Otto (Lisa) Rincker, and Otis (Donna) Rincker all of Strasburg, six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



**Is your current internet reception slow or unreliable?
Submit a Fiber Interest Form now for Illinois Fiber Connect!
Opportunity to have access to high speed internet and unlimited bandwidth in Strasburg!**

Illinois Fiber Connect is an exciting joint venture between two cooperatives, Wabash Communication and EJ Water, which brings Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) technology to residents around the Midwest.

A fiber connection will provide you with access to virtually unlimited bandwidth capacity and internet speed, enabling you to enjoy a better experience with data-intensive applications such as streaming, online gaming, cloud storage, online education and more. Fiber also increases service reliability and stability. In addition, having FTTH can increase the value of a home by several thousand dollars and increase the amount renters are willing to pay.

A fiber connection can provide virtually unlimited internet speeds. FTTH speed would be 50 times faster than the average U.S. household internet plan with 20 Mbps speed. The services will be available for internet, telephone* and TV services.

**phone is subject to availability*

How can Strasburg become eligible for this service? There must be enough interest in Strasburg to be considered for these services. **Visit www.awesomefiber.com and fill out the fiber interest form.** Completing a fiber interest form is not a commitment to purchase anything. Whether you end up purchasing the services or not, we need all residents to complete a fiber interest form so the option will become available. Please spread the word out IFC Fiber: * Social Media * Texting * Email * Neighborhood Gatherings. Go to www.awesomefiber.com



**PO Box 385
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