

GNOME NEWS



GNOME NEWS IS GOOD NEWS!

info@strasburgil.com

• WWW.STRASBURGIL.COM •

\$1.00 / Copy

Important Dates

Dec. 10 – Christmas Cantata by joint choirs of local Lutheran churches. 7 p.m. at St. Paul's.

Dec. 15 – Annual Light Up Strasburg contest. 5 p.m.

Dec. 15, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. & Dec. 16, 9-11 a.m. – ALA Cookie/Candy Walk and Showcase of Trees. Community Ctr. Page 5

Dec. 16 – Santa arrives by fire truck to the Community Center. 9:30-11 a.m.

Dec. 27 – Seasoned Citizens meet for lunch. Noon. Community Ctr.

Jan. 14 – LYF Soup Luncheon, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. At Trinity Church, Stewardson. Page 6

Jan. 23 – SCAN Quarterly Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Community Center

Jan. 31 – Seasoned Citizens meet for lunch. Noon. Community Ctr.

Feb. 24 - Lions Pancake/Sausage Breakfast, 6-10 a.m., Community Center

Subscribe to the bi-monthly Gnome News for \$12 and receive a color copy newsletter in the mail 6 times a year. Contact the village clerk to sign up.

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

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

Message from the Mayor

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Our town looks wonderful. Thank you to everyone who has been able to decorate your homes. They are all amazing.

The park looks great, and I give a big shout out to Ron Thomas and Todd Apke. We'd like to add some new decorations next year. These lights are expensive, so we will take donations towards next year. There is a can at the community center.

This year has flown by. The village board has worked together to get some projects started that will hopefully come to fruition in the upcoming year. Teamwork is the key.

I also want to recognize our volunteer organizations. They all contribute so much to our small community. Thank you, Lions Club, LEOs, American Legion and Auxiliary, SCAN and the 150th Committee.

The Village Board and I wish you all a Merry Christmas. We hope for each of you good health and safety in 2024. Don't forget, our village 150th celebration is June 14-16, 2024.



Cinda Held

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



Strasburg 2024 Commemorative History Book - YOUR STORIES ARE NEEDED NOW

As we approach the 150th anniversary of the founding of the village of Strasburg, it is important that we record and look back at our village history. For that reason, the 150th committee has been compiling a booklet to look back at the past as well as record the present for posterity.

Books were published for the 100th and 125th anniversaries which chronicle the founding and early history and provide a snapshot of “the way things were”. The goal of the 150th booklet will be to do the same, not so much through old records and pictures, but through stories and recollections of citizens, former citizens, or frequent visitors to the town. We want stories from those who are age 8-108, from the “good ol’ days” to the present days – which will someday be the “good ol’ days”.

Topic suggestions are listed here, but feel free to write about any topic that you remember:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Growing Up in Strasburg | Raising Children in Strasburg | Retiring in Strasburg |
| Going to School in Strasburg | What’s for Dinner in Stras Saturday | Mornings in Strasburg |
| Typical Sunday in Strasburg | Christmastime in Strasburg | Summer in Strasburg |
| Your Favorite Day in Strasburg | Looking Good in Strasburg | Learning to Drive in Strasburg |
| Ball Games in Strasburg | Getting Rowdy in Strasburg | Traditions in Strasburg |
| Doing Business in Strasburg | Helping Each Other in Strasburg | Strasburg at War |
| Good Time in the ‘Burg | Flowers, Vegetables & Lawns | Strasburg Mysteries |
| Oops! In Strasburg | Strasburg’s Future | Create Your Own Topic |

It is important to record these stories now while those memories are fresh in people’s minds. We encourage you to look through the topics present and take a few minutes to record your thoughts. While your memories may not seem important to you now, imagine how precious they would be to your children and grandchildren 25, 50 or 100 years from now. How often have you thought, “If only I could ask grandma or grandpa, mom or dad” a question about the past or something they experienced?

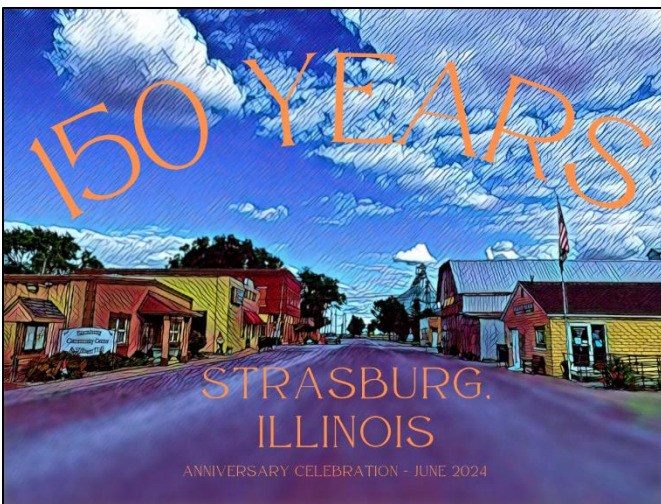
Another reason to contribute is that even though many of our experiences are common, each one of us has a unique perspective on things that have happened. Each story will work to help complete a picture. This is your chance.

How often have you thought, “If only I could ask grandma, grandpa, mom or dad” a question about the past or something they experienced?

The time to put the ideas down and get them to the committee is now! The stories will need to be completed, edited and sent to the printers to get the booklet ready for the anniversary celebration in June 2024. Your stories are very beneficial for creating an interesting book.

Please consider completing this task before the end of the year.

Directions: Stories can be emailed to the village info@strasburgil.com, dropped off in person, or given to any of the committee members. Writers should keep each story to max of one page, single spaced, size 12 font. Shorter is fine! Include a photograph of the story if possible. Stories will be edited as needed. Or call Ellen 217.690.0112, Karen at 217.549.3141 or Gary at 217.254.3141 and they will record your story and write it for you.



Foreign Exchange Student comes to Strasburg

My name is Sofia Depoitre. I am a foreign exchange student who comes from Belgium. I am 18 years old and have completed my secondary education (high school) in Belgium. I arrived in Strasburg on August 14, 2023 and I am here to the end of the school year. I speak French and am here to learn English, discover all your customs, and meet new people. I have the chance to be hosted by Kristina and Thomas Moore with their two kids Grace and Gabe. I am in Stewardson-Strasburg high-school. I am in the volleyball and basketball team, LEO club, and language club. When I return home, I plan to go to a University (college) and become a teacher.

1. Why did you want to come to America?

I always wanted to be bilingual but during the covid 19, becoming an exchange student became very popular. This project looked very interesting so I started to look for more information. I started to order all the information and I knew that this project would be incredible. After that, I chose which country and I decided on the United States because your culture and your customs interest me a lot. I wanted to practice some sports, live one thanksgiving, go to school in America, live the graduation, the homecoming and the prom. I also often hear that the American people were very welcoming (which is true) . But my first motivation was also to learn English because it's a language that is almost universal. All this caused me to choose the United States of America.



Sophia and the WSS Hatchets JV Team

2. What is something that you have learned since you have been here?

I honestly learned a lot. I am learning English but also all your customs. I had the chance to live one thanksgiving, to be in a sports team, even two and soon my homecoming. I learned in reality to live a new life because everything is very different.

3. What do you like the most in Strasburg?

I love the mood of Strasburg. I mean I love the fact that everybody knows everybody and that there are often some activities to meet all the residents. And I also love the architecture of Strasburg, it's a really cute village!

4. What is the difference between volleyball and basketball here and in Belgium ?

There are a lot of things. First, we don't have a sports team with the school so we just have the same way as your travel team. That means that we have on average 2 practices per week during 1h30 and one game per week-end. The sport in Belgium is less important than in America and can be, with the big option at school, hard to practice because we finish school later and have on average between 30 minutes and 1 hour of way to come back home. That means that we are home around 5:30 and 6:00 pm and have again 2 hours of homework every day. It is so hard to find the time to practice and be focused on our sport.

5. Who are your friends?

I honestly had a lot of chances because I started the volleyball season on my first day so I met some girls straight away after my arrival. The volleyball girls welcomed me and are still my friends today and thanks to basketball, I am creating more links with the girls every day.



Sophia with host family

CHRISTMAS BAGS FOR MATTOON VA

Strasburg American Legion Auxiliary filled 45 Christmas gift bags for homebound veterans through the Mattoon VA CBOC. Thanks to Windsor ALA and Mattoon ALA for monetary donations, Barb Olivier for the donation of the homemade throws, Barb Ohnesorge and Lisa Rincker for 40 sets of towels, Charlene Telgmann and Cinda Held for sewing 45 Christmas stockings, and a special thank you to Strasburg and surrounding communities for contributions of snacks, personal items and monetary donation. Due to all of the generous donations these Veterans will have a blessed Christmas.



Picture include (1) stockings Filled, (2) Van filled and ready to deliver, (3) Members who filled Christmas bags (L to R – Charlene Telgmann, Linda Voris (Windsor ALA Unit), Bonnie Lawrence, Linda Oakley, Kathy Eckstein, Cinda Held, Sarah Wyckoff

Strasburg 150th Anniversary Celebration – June 14-16, 2024

A few 1874-2024 Commemorative ornaments are still available for sale at the Shelby County State Bank in Strasburg. Ornament design was by Madison Antrim. All 150th items for sale:

- 1. CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT - \$10

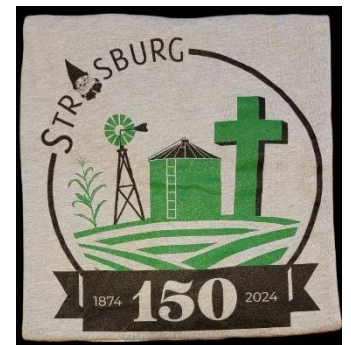
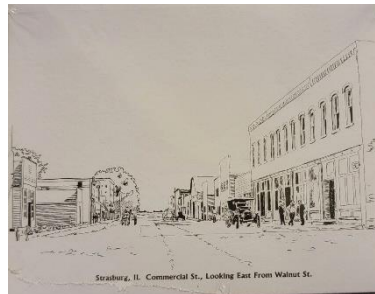
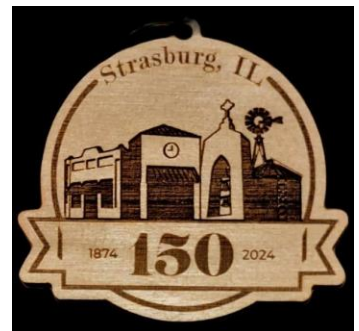
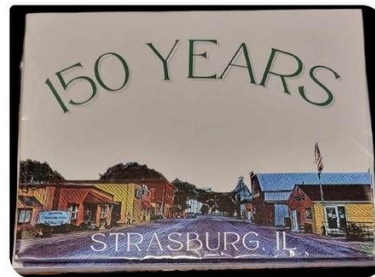
Wood burnt by Stew-Stras Tech Students
Limited quantities.

- 2. NOTECARDS-150 YEARS - Main Street -\$5
Pkg of 6 cards of same style

- 3. NOTECARDS-Variety Pack - \$5
2 cards of 3 different pics/pkg of 6 cards

- 4. VINTAGE NOTECARDS - \$5
10 of same style per pkg
Limited quantities.

- 5. T-Shirts - 2 designs
GREY SHORT SLEEVE T-SHIRTS
\$15 S-XL or \$17 for 2X and up

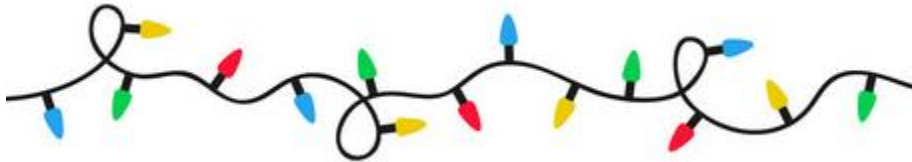


Custom order additional sizes and Shirts Wth Gnome. Place requests by December 4th to receive them before Christmas. Adult sizes only. Shirts without Gnome pic are available immediately, M-2X. Contact Village Office (info@strasburgil.com, or 217.644.3007) Lisa Rincker, Barb Ohnesorge or Chris Kramer to purchase. See FB page “Strasburg’s 150th Anniversary Celebration” for more information and pictures.

150th Fundraiser Quilt Raffle Winner Announced

Nancy Boyer was the winner of the Strasburg 150th Anniversary Celebration Quilt Raffle. Thank you to everyone that purchased tickets for this fundraiser. A Special Thank You to the Quiltin' Buddies of Shelbyville, IL for donating the beautiful handmade quilt for the fundraiser.

Please join us at our next committee planning meeting in January. Check the Strasburg's 150th Anniversary Celebration" Facebook page for date/time.



Annual Light Up Strasburg Village Light Contest

Home judging will take place Friday, Dec. 15. Please have your lights on by 5 p.m.

3rd Annual Showcase of Trees

Strasburg American Auxiliary Liberty Unit 289 3rd Annual Showcase of Trees will be on display at the Community Center from December 11 to January 1. Visitors can vote for their favorite tree – the tree with the most money in the bucket wins! Proceeds from the event will benefit the ALA Education Fund Scholarships. Voting ends January 1.

The Christmas Store



Sponsored by
Strasburg American Legion Auxiliary Unit #289

Friday, December 15 – 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Saturday, December 16 – 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

- Homemade Candies, Cookies, Cinnamon Rolls
- Homemade Noodles
- Rada Cutlery
- TerriLynn Nuts
- Scrubbies
- Stocking Stuffers

Located in the Strasburg Community Center

Profits to be used for Community Projects and Veterans

Come enjoy the Show Case of Trees

News Brief: Congratulations to Briar Smith for being named to the ILMEA All-State Orchestra! This is Briar's second year of being placed with the top high school string players in the state! The All-State Orchestra will perform in Peoria, IL on January 27th at the IMEC Convention.



Santa is coming to town!

Santa will be arriving by fire truck at the Community Center in Strasburg to check his list of good little boys and girls on

Saturday, December 16

Arriving at 9:30
Leaving at 11:00 AM

Strasburg Community Center



Thank you to the Strasburg Lion's Club. They were instrumental in asking Santa to travel from the North Pole to Strasburg for this visit.

Stew-Stras crowns Kinkelaar, Bridges, 2023 Homecoming royalty



Stewardson-Strasburg High School crowned its Homecoming royalty on Dec. 1 following the basketball game with Dieterich. The 2023 Homecoming Queen is Ella Kinkelaar, daughter of Jeremy and Kelly Kinkelaar. Homecoming King is Colton Bridges, son of Adam and Del Rae Bridges.

Join us for LYF's
Soup Luncheon
JANUARY 14, 2023
11 AM-12:30 PM
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
STEWARDSON, IL

MENU:
 Chili and Chicken Noodle Soup,
 Hot Dogs, Potato Chips,
 Desserts and Beverages
Free Will Donations Accepted

Proceeds will benefit the Grace/St. Paul/Trinity LYF in preparation for their various trips and activities.

~Remembering~

Connie Sue Denham, 76, of Strasburg, IL, passed away on Thursday, October 19, 2023 in her home.

Connie was born on January 10, 1947 in Shelby County, IL, the daughter of Carl and Loraine Robinson Rincker. She attended Windsor schools and graduated in 1965. She married Rodney Denham on July 4, 1969 and he survives. She is also survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Christine and James Matlock of Shelbyville, IL and her son, Ryan Denham (Amber Moreland) of Benton, IL. Also surviving are her grandchildren, Alex Matlock (fiancée Oliva Beck) of Tulsa, OK, Morgan Matlock of Shelbyville, IL, Evan Matlock of Edwardsville, IL and Chase Denham of West Frankfort, IL.



Connie was tough, solid and was able to keep up with her husband at home and at the business they built and ran together for fifty years. She could always be found wherever Rodney was and was his right hand. Her family will miss her dearly but are happy knowing she is at peace with God now.

Diane Lyn Paraiso, 76, of Strasburg, IL, passed away Saturday, November 11, 2023 in Heartland Senior Living, Neoga, IL.

Diane was born on June 6, 1947 in Effingham, IL, the daughter of Michael W. and Nina Ruth "Sally" (Wilson) Meeker. She earned her degree from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL. Diane was a court reporter for the State of Illinois at the time of her retirement. She was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and American Legion Auxiliary both of Strasburg, IL.



She is survived by her son, Augusto "Gus" Paraiso III of Atlanta, GA; brother, Ken Meeker (Mary) of Oviedo, FL; and two grandchildren, Taylor Caroline Paraiso of North Aurora, IL and Braden Irvin of Atlanta, GA.

Former Residents

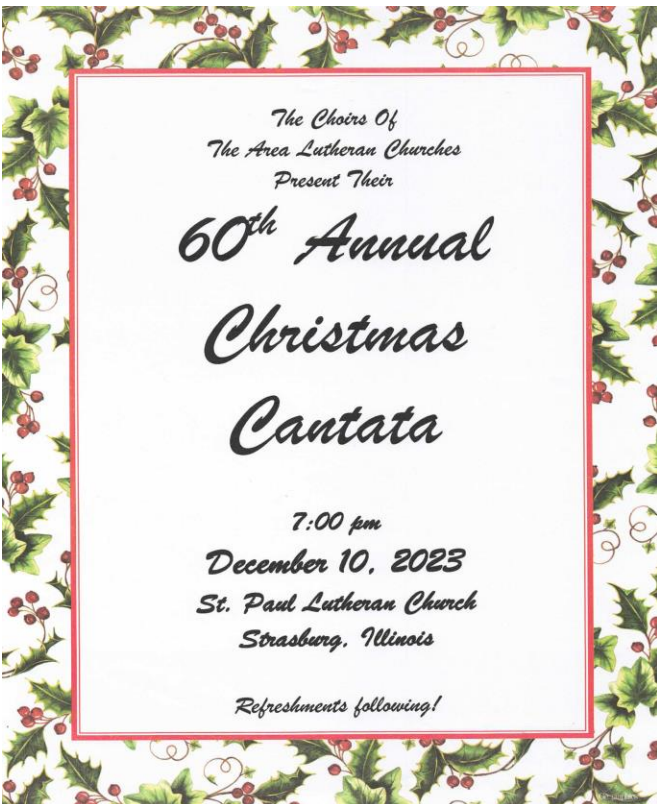
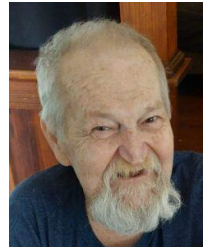
Nancy Ann Slifer, 85, of Shelbyville, IL passed away Sunday, November 19, 2023 at HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital, Shelbyville, IL.

Nancy was born July 2, 1938 in Strasburg, IL, the daughter of Roy Wilson and Fern Alma (Spannagel) Reed, Sr.. She graduated from Stewardson-Strasburg High School in the Class of 1956 with perfect attendance in all twelve grades. Nancy married Keith F. Snyder on Jan. 4, 1959, and they had three children, Kendall, Kara, and Kathleen. Nancy worked at First Trust Bank in Shelbyville from 1957 – 2001. She married Russell D. Slifer on November 30, 1997 and he preceded her in death on August 20, 2018. She was a member of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Shelbyville where she served as choir director and organist. She was a member of Shelby County Farm Bureau and enjoyed attending her grandchildren’s sporting events and watching Westerns.



Lynn Kyle Doty, 66, of Tower Hill, IL, formerly of Shelbyville and Strasburg, passed away Thursday, November 23, 2023 in his residence.

Lynn was born on September 23, 1957 in Shelbyville, IL, the son of Ernestine Ruth (Hirtzel) Doty. He graduated from Stewardson Strasburg High School in the Class of 1975. Lynn worked at Blaw-Knox in Mattoon, IL for over 25 years and then at McDonald’s in Shelbyville for 15 years. He married Teresa Kaye Hoback on March 19, 2010 in Shelbyville, IL, and she preceded him in death on September 7, 2017. Lynn is survived by his sons, Patrick Doty of Beecher City, IL, Justin Doty and wife Andrea of Bethany, IL, and Christopher Doty of Tower Hill, IL; daughter, Mary Michelle Doty of Villa Grove, IL; step-son, Matthew Hoback of Forsyth, IL; brothers, Dale Doty of Charleston, IL, and Mike Doty (Dianne) of Strasburg, IL; and 15 grandchildren.



Strasburg Community Foundation - Working For Generations To Come

Formed in 2007, the Strasburg Community Foundation has awarded over \$32,000 grants for improvements to the village.

Strasburg is a place filled with people you know and love. The village is working consciously and diligently towards its future. This is your opportunity to help with the work for the generations to come.

Did you contribute to the Strasburg Community Foundation in 2023? If not, now is the time to donate no matter what the size.

Make your check payable to: Southeast Illinois Community Foundation – Strasburg Endowment and mail to Southeast Illinois Community Foundation, PO Box 1211, Effingham, IL 62401.

For online donations, go to <https://southeasternillinois.org/> and designate Other Gift Designation to “Strasburg Endowment”.

“Strasburg Endowment” goes to the Permanent Fund. To donate to the Park Renovation Project, be sure to designate “Strasburg Park Renovation Project”.

Morgan Mathis, Strasburg 2023 Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations to Morgan Mathis on being named Strasburg's 2023 Volunteer of the Year! Morgan is the daughter of Kevin and Lori Mathis and is active at school, her church and in her community. Morgan is a senior at Stewardson-Strasburg High School and is very involved in many school activities including girls basketball, LEO Club (Strasburg Lions), Yearbook and much more.

In her community, Morgan is the student representative for the SCAN Board of Directors and can always be counted upon to help out at events. She has helped with Vacation Bible School at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. She has also been a huge help at fundraising events for the Strasburg 150th Committee. Her easy-going attitude and kind demeanor make her wonderful to work with. Thank you, Morgan, for all you do! You are an inspiration to so many!



LYF Soup Luncheon

The Joint LYF of Grace, St. Paul's, and Trinity will be hosting a Soup Luncheon on Sunday, January 14 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Stewardson. The youth will begin serving homemade chili and chicken noodle soup, hot dogs, potato chips and desserts from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Dine-in and To-go available! Proceeds from your free will donations will go toward local youth group activities and trips. We appreciate your support and hope to see you after church on the 14th!



**PO Box 385
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