

GNOME NEWS

GNOME NEWS IS GOOD NEWS!

info@strasburgil.com

• WWW.STRASBURGIL.COM •

\$1.00 / Copy

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

Important Dates

Saturdays, Jun. 6-Sept. 5,
Strasburg Farmers Market, 9-11
a.m., Community Center Parking
Lot. Pork Chop Sandwiches
available July 4, 9-11 a.m.

Jul. 12, SCAN drive thru Burritos,
4-6 p.m. Community Center

Jul. 17-19, Lions Club
Homecoming, Parade & Golf Cart
Races (See Page 7)

Jul. 29, SS Seasoned Citizens
meet, noon

Village officials

Current Board Members are:
Village President: Cinda Held

Trustees: Robert Anderson,
Jack Clark, James Connell,
MaRanda McClain, Anita
Renshaw, and Charles Wade

Village Clerk: Linda Oakley

Fiscal Clerk: Lisa Rincker

**Subscribe to the bi-monthly
Gnome News** for \$12/year. See
the village clerk to sign up.

Copies of the Gnome News are
available at Short Stop, 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

The first weekend of June was busy in Strasburg. The garage sales were a big success, the Farmer's Market had a good turnout and the Lions Club Chicken Fry was delicious. It was good to see the ball diamond being used again and as always to see Big Al's in town. What a way to start the summer! Plus, I got to go back to church, and to a Krile Auction. Hopefully other activities planned will begin to go on as usual.

An online Bingo is being planned as a fundraiser for park improvements. I don't know all the details yet on how it works but there will be information posted after we get a license. Once all the logistics are worked out, we are hoping that this event will take place towards the end of June.

Mark your calendar –

A night at the Ball Park is always good. If you have not attended a softball or baseball game at the park, pick a night and go. Practices have started. There is a copy of the schedule on the Community Center door, at the post office and posted at the ball diamond. Be sure and notice the infield of the softball diamond. The Village gave it a facelift this spring with a new surface consisting of crushed brick. The new surface dries more quickly and looks great!

The Annual Lion's Club Homecoming will be July 17-19. New this year – on Sunday will be Golf Cart races in lieu of the Strongman competition (it was cancelled due to COVID.) See page 7 for details.

The Village will be oiling streets again the first week in August. The village continues to work on ditches and drainage within the village.

Just FYI that there will be Mosquito Spraying once a month until September.

Let's all do our part to make our town shine this summer.

Finally – Please fill out the census form if delivered to your door (if you have not already completed it) or go to 2020census.gov. If you need help, stop by the village office.

Have a safe and fun summer.

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



Cinda Held



News from Gnorman, the traveling Strasburg Gnome

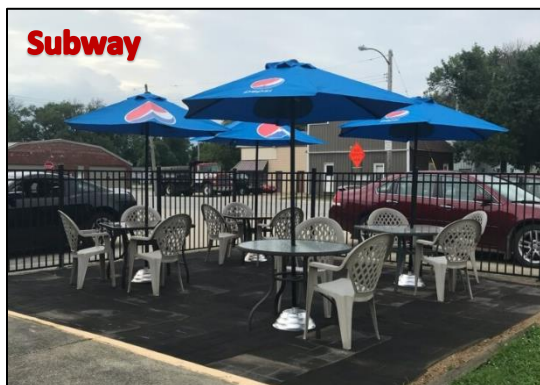
Gnorman has been sheltering in place this spring and was excited to hear that the Gnome population in Strasburg was up to 1294 according to the 2020 Gnome Census. Gnorman has recently been welcoming and visiting with new residents, keeping his social distance of course. Look for Gnorman to be visiting Krile Auction Service soon.

Send your Strasburg Gnome pictures to info@strasburgil.com and we'll post on Facebook.



Strasburg Businesses find alternative ways to serve customers

With inside dining restriction, two Strasburg businesses have found ways to serve their customers with outside seating. **Subway** has added new umbrellas to their outside seating and a new outside patio was recently built at **32 Below**. Please continue to support our local businesses as they work to serve the community during this difficult time.



Mary Anderson Memorial Scholarship for Post-Secondary Students

The Strasburg American Legion Auxiliary is taking applications for the Mary Anderson Memorial Scholarship for Post-Secondary Students. This is a **\$500** scholarship for a student who has graduated from high school prior to 2020 and who will attend a community college, four-year college, or technical institute. The scholarship will be paid in one installment of \$500 on October 1st.



Applications for the scholarship must be accompanied by proof of admission and attendance in a post-secondary school. Due to COVID-19 the submission date for application has been extended to **July 31, 2020**.

Applications can be picked up at Strasburg Village Office on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday or can be emailed to applicants. Contact Cinda Held at sportmama_98@yahoo.com to receive an application.

KULL APPLIANCE SERVICE CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

Kull Appliance Service in Strasburg is celebrating 40 years in business in July. Gary Kull, owner, opened the business in 1980 at 103 S Walnut, after a three-year teaching stint at Windsor Elementary. Kull followed in his father and uncle's footsteps, Carl and Merl Kull who owned and operated Kull Brothers Hardware & Appliances for 35 years, closing in 1979. "I worked there every weekend during college. When I opened my store in 1980, I felt like I had a running start, calling on customers that had bought from my dad and uncle at Kull Brothers."

Kull sold the building along Rt. 32 to Nathan Stremming and built a new store in 2016 at his home located at 109 W S 1st Street. The new building includes a showroom, office and warehouse area. The business offers sales and service of major household appliances.

During a recent interview, Kull looked back at the past 40 years.

Q. What are some of the biggest changes you experienced in the appliance business?

A. During my first years of business, appliance stores were small and locally owned. I used to have five sales representatives calling on me. With the opening of the big box stores, many family stores closed. The companies who make appliance also went through many mergers and consolidations which resulted in fewer choices of brands.

Q. What have you enjoyed about being self-employed?

A. I have always enjoyed being able to visit with my customers in their homes and see their environment. It's a unique experience. I like not having a routine and doing something different every day. I still learn every day, but you can fix about anything with 40 years of experience. Over the years I've had great part-time help including my dad, Carl Kull, my father-in-law Dwight Lading, Ed Held and Chuck Wade.

Q. How has your customer base changed?

A. When I first started in business, my customer base was more local. I now regularly cover a wider area which includes Effingham, Mattoon, Charleston, and Sullivan.

Q. What brands and products do you sell?

A. Brands include Crosley, Maytag, Whirlpool, Speed Queen and Amana. Products include washers, dryers, ranges, refrigerators, dishwashers, and freezers.

To contact Gary at Kull Appliance Service, call or text him at 217-254-3141 or find on Facebook-Kull Appliance Service. Showroom hours are by appointment only.



Remembering

Marjorie M. Green, 97, (September 30, 1922 - June 6, 2020)

Marjorie was born on September 30, 1922 in Strasburg, IL, the daughter of Raymond Adam and Flossie Phoebe Ruff Engel. She graduated from Strasburg High School in the Class of 1940. Marjorie married Lowell T. Green on July 6, 1941. She was a part-time clerk for the Strasburg Post Office for many years. Marjorie was a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Strasburg, IL and enjoyed sewing, knitting, playing cards and golfing at the Effingham Country Club. Marjorie will be remembered for her great smile, her laugh, for always helping others, and for her love of her grandchildren and great grandchildren.



She is survived by her two daughters, Linda Manhart (Michael) of Moweaqua, IL and Susan Pikes (Derryl) of Strasburg, IL; nine grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

SCAN News



The SCAN Action Teams continue to volunteer their time to improve the quality of life for the residents of Strasburg.

- Beautification: Directors Jane Giertz and Stephanie Kinkley planted 11 flowerpots around town and the Beautification volunteers have been watering them. Pictured is Stephanie and her children as they water flowers at the park and a picture of Stephanie and the flowers planted in front of Shelby County State Bank.



- Family & Youth Activities: Directors Brittany Kaufman and MaRanda McClain.
 - The Little Hatchets Sports Club for ages Pre-K to 4th grade met for eight weeks in Jan. and Feb. and had 60 children participate. Adult volunteers worked with children on basic skills for volleyball, basketball and baseball. The cost was \$10 and each child received a t-shirt.
 - This Action Team is looking to start a Saturday youth soccer program this fall (Sept. & Oct.) and would like to know if your child is interested in attending. This would be for ages Pre-K to 3rd grade. Contact Brittany or MaRanda for more details or go to the Little Hatchets Sports Club Facebook page.
 - Uncork and UnWine event was held at Vahling Vineyards. Guests were treated to wine, coloring, refreshments, and prizes.
 - Biggest Loser Contest was held this spring with 30 participants. Paul Holland lost 37 pounds to win the contest and \$300. The group may do another contest in the fall.

Pictures from SCAN Little Hatchets, Uncork & UnWine, and Biggest Loser activities below and on page 5.

Little
Hatchets
Sports
Club

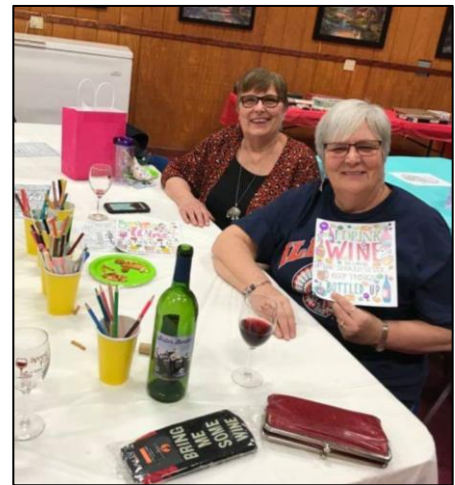


SCAN News continued

Little Hatchets in action



Uncork & UnWine



Biggest Loser

Before



After



- Infrastructure and Community Improvements: Directors Larry Giertz & Doug Quast
 - Some business gnomes have been repainted and mailboxes areas have been built
- Housing: Directors Justin Krile and Gary Kull
 - Every new home built in Strasburg gets a new tree from SCAN. A tree for Nancy Boyer has been planted by Friese Trees in York Acres.



New tree in York Acres

SCAN News continued

SCAN recently donated to the Village to help with proposed village park improvements which are subject to availability of funds including state grants. Suggested improvements include:

- A new pavilion/ball stand with handicapped restrooms and new electrical service
- Resurfacing the tennis court and basketball courts/adding pickle ball court
- Revamping the walking path

SCAN is looking at purchasing some new climbing equipment this summer for children at the park.

Drive Thru Burrito Night-Supports October Car Show

Angie Edwards and the SCAN crew will be serving Burritos and all the fixin's on **Sunday, July 12 from 4-6 p.m.** The Burritos can be purchased by Drive-Thru at the Strasburg Community Center. This fundraiser will support the **Car Show** being planned for October. Call Angie at 217.343.5686 or 217.644.3209 for pre-orders. 32Below will be offering a margarita special that evening.

All the village non-profit organizations (Lions Club, SCAN, American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary) appreciate your support of events and fundraisers. If you are interested in joining a group, please contact Linda at the Village Office and she can give you contact info.

Local resident enjoys time back in the states due to COVID

Evan Noffke considers his hometown as Strasburg. He grew up splitting his time between his father, James, who lives in town, and his mother, Debbie Mathews, who lives in Sullivan. Seven years ago, after he graduated with a degree in Elementary Education, he accepted an offer in Ecuador. The following is from Evan about his experience out of the country during the pandemic



“Ecuador is a very small country in South America in between Colombia and Peru with one of the highest level of biodiversity on the planet. As someone who has always loved nature, this was what really sold me on moving down there. Although Ecuador is smaller than Illinois, it has rainforests, desert regions, snow capped mountains, and of course the Galapagos Islands. I currently teach Social Studies at the American School

of Quito. Although my Spanish is nearly fluent, my classes are delivered completely in English, so I have never struggled in that regard.

Unfortunately, Ecuador is also a relatively poor country with underdeveloped infrastructure and one that goes without many things we take for granted. When COVID-19 hit, the coastal city of Guayaquil suffered a massive infection rate due to the population density and lack of education about how the disease is spread. Hospital beds were completely filled up...The U.S. Embassy arranged several repatriation flights for US Citizens living in Ecuador, one of which, I was lucky enough to get a ticket on. All passengers were required to wear masks and gloves at all times, were sprayed with sanitizer over their entire bodies at several points in the airport, and even the flight crew was wearing complete bio-suits, goggles, masks, gloves, and rubber boots. It was a surreal experience.

I am happy to be home where it is not nearly as dangerous. I love to be able to ride my bike through the streets at night, which I can't do in the city in Ecuador due to thieves. I enjoy the quiet here, as the city I live in is extremely noisy at times.”

While Evan is home, he is also enjoying his dad's new Troll House. *See more on this story on page 8.*

Strasburg Lions Club Schedule of Events, July 17-19

Friday, July 17

5 p.m. **AYCE Fish Fry**, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Applesauce & Side Salad

6 p.m. **PARADE**. Parade begins at the Trestle (North Locust Street) and ends at the Park. Parade will honor our local **MEDICAL HEROS** and will have a trailer for them to ride on. Please plan to participate. Lineup by 5:45 p.m. Contact Jodie Quast for info 217.246.3919.



Saturday, July 18

8:30 a.m. **Strasburg Gnomecoming 5K & 1 mile Walk/Run**. Register 7:00-8:15 a.m. Save \$5 by signing up online through Eventbrite. Plus, get a free t-shirt with any registration before July 9th.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/strasburg-gnomecoming-2020-5k-run-registration-108044913244>

11 a.m. **Outfield Food Stand Opens / Tractor and Truck Weigh In**

Noon **Tractor Pull Begins**

1 p.m. **Kids Games**

3 p.m. **Pedal Tractor Pull**

New Event at the Lions Club Homecoming

Golf Cart Races

Sunday, July 19

11 a.m. **Registration begins/Food Stand Opens**

Race begins at Noon

Cost to enter - \$20

What you need to race:

- **Factory built non-modified Golf Cart, gas or electric with street tires**
- **Four people – Driver and three-person Pit Crew**

Winner gets \$100 and Trophy

Best Pit Crew Award

Lion John Wittenberg, organizer of the Golf Cart Races, got this idea when wintering in Florida. His neighborhood started up golf cart races and he enjoyed watching them.

There will be heats of four golf carts with a pace car to start the race. Four pit areas are located around the track and each cart is required to make 3 pit stops. The three pit crew members will simulate changing tires, filling gas tank, and cleaning the windshield as they 1) put a tape on each tire, 2) fill milk jug full of water, 3) put tape on the windshield.

A drivers license is required for the driver of the golf cart. The event will take place on the grass area west of the ball diamond. Participants are invited to the park on **July 11 or 12 at 6 p.m.** to see how the track works. Participants are encouraged to pre-register with John Wittenberg. Contact him at 217.254.2264.



James Noffke builds landmark out of old tree stump



Some people might consider an old tree stump an eye store. But James Noffke saw it as an opportunity. After a few years as an idea, Noffke finally created his vision of Troll House this spring after a family of birds was done nesting there.

The tree had died years ago and was cut down, but still needed leveled. Once that was done, he needed to outfit it. Fortunately, he didn't need to look far. Each piece used for the house is scrap items that he salvaged, including tin and stained glass he had saved through the years.

Stay tuned for the Troll House to be decorated this Christmas!



Leah and her husband Zach moved to Strasburg in 2018 and "absolutely love the area".

Leah is the Director of Guest Services at the Workman Sports Complex, Effingham. She values Zya's mission and core values and is thankful for the opportunity to work for them out of her home.

Leah Ritter

Zya Active Independent Rep

<http://www.myzyia.com/LEAHRITTER/>

lmbruce.18@gmail.com

Strasburg, Illinois



**PO Box 385
Strasburg, IL 62465**