

GNOME NEWS

GNOME NEWS IS GOOD NEWS!

info@strasburgil.com

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\$1.00 / Copy

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

Important Dates

Wed., Dec. 30 - SS Seasoned Citizens, Fingers Foods, Noon

Tues., Jan. 26, SCAN Quarterly Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wed., Jan. 27, SS Seasoned Citizens, Noon

New Lots Available for Sale
Soon in York Acres

Contact the Village for Info
217-644-3007

Strasburg Gnome News

Available electronically: Send your 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

Season's Greetings from the Village!

This year is one everyone will remember one way or another. There have been many frustrating days and weeks, but our community has persevered and carried on as normally as possible. We became creative when we needed to have some events that have become customs in our town. We should be hopeful for the days ahead, not fearful to leave our homes. Let us continue to have positive attitudes toward our neighbors and community and work together to meet our goals and live safely together.

If I have a wish for our town for 2021, it is to get faster internet with fiber optic service. Fiber Optic is important to the future of Strasburg. New families want fast internet. They are working from home, learning online and steaming TV channels, movies and playing video games. We want to maintain our small-town values and traditions, but we also need to look toward the future of our children and grandchildren. We only need about 12 more homes to sign up. Take time to look at the options for TV, Telephone and Internet.

This could potentially entice people who work from home to consider Strasburg because we have a nice quiet hometown, and we are **Right! in the Middle of Everything!**



Cinda Held



Merry Christmas to you all and a Blessed New Year!

Strasburg Village Tree once again lights up the town!

Many remember the grand Strasburg Village Christmas Tree placed in the middle of Commercial Street. For many years, it was the highlight of the village light display. However, due to the nature of placing an obstacle in the middle of a busy road, the tradition was discontinued.



This year, the Strasburg Community Action Network members worked to bring the tradition back to life. The Strasburg Village Tree is set up in the patio area just outside of Subway and ready for all to enjoy. The tree is the perfect spot for your holiday photos!

The six-foot live spruce tree was donated by Brock Friese, owner of Friese Trees. It will be planted at the park afterwards. Marca Clark, shown in the picture on the left, handcrafted the star on top. The Strasburg Short Stop allowed for the electric and location.

The community took part by painting the gnome ornaments and each have their own personality! For those who took part, their painted gnome ornaments will be available for pickup at the Short Stop after the first of the year (if

they survive the elements!)



The tree is lighted in the evenings. Stop by and see it now through the end of the year! Thanks to SCAN, the village and all involved! Please share your pictures on the Strasburg Facebook page.

Strasburg Biggest Loser Challenge helps participants shed pounds and gain support

This fall Strasburg Community Action Network hosted a “Biggest Loser” challenge for the community. Approximately 31 people participated in the event.

While the overall goal for the 8 weeks was to lose weight, the group also focused on healthy habits, motivation, positivity and support. The winner received \$300 and proceeds went to the Strasburg Park Improvements.

Justin Deters took home the top prize and lost 33.8 pounds or 12.9% of his body weight. Congrats Justin!



The Village Announces Lighting Contest Winners

The Annual “**Light Up Strasburg**” Christmas Light contest was held this year to help brighten this very difficult year of 2020. Residents were asked to decorate their homes for the season. This year’s contest was a “People’s Choice” award. Votes were cast for twenty different homes in Strasburg. 1st Place was Dale & Bonnie Vonderheide, 207 S. Elizabeth; 2nd Place was Joe and Sheila Stratton, 308 N. Chestnut; 3rd Place was Dylan and Amelia Ohnesorge, 301 W.N. 1st Street. Congratulations to these winners, and a heartfelt thank you to all who decorated their house this year and to those who voted. Many homes are lit up this year so be sure and drive through town to see the wonderful displays!



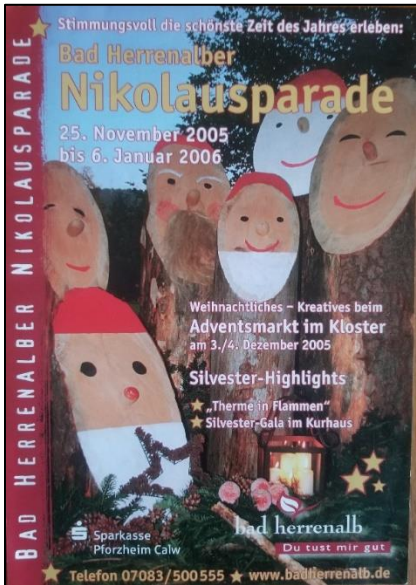
1st Vonderheide



2nd Stratton



3rd Ohnesorge



Strasburg Santa Brigade Tradition Originates in Germany

You may have noticed that wooden santas were placed around the village soon after Thanksgiving. The Strasburg tradition of wooden santas being placed at local merchants has its origins in the Black Forest region of Germany. The tradition began after a local couple took a trip to Germany.

During the fall of 2005, Krystal Kull, a senior at Elmhurst College, was studying abroad in Freiburg, a city in the southwest corner of Germany. Her parents, Gary and Karen Kull, and soon-to-be finance, Brock Friese, traveled to Germany at the end of her semester in December to pick her up and tour the area.

A couple of days were scheduled to visit Bad Herrenalb, a municipality in Baden-Württemberg, Germany, situated in the northern Black Forest. With a population of 7,450, it is the town from which the Kull family ancestors hailed.

The group drove to Bad Herrenalb on a dark, snowy evening, climbing a narrow mountainous road without the aid of GPS. Magically, the village appeared and the newly fallen snow gave it a postcard appearance. They seemed to have traveled back in time in this village where many half-timbered structures stood.

The next morning, when they could view the village in the daylight, they noticed many large wooden santas were placed throughout the town and in merchant's shops. They learned this festival was called the Nikolausparade.

Gary was intrigued with this unique practice and upon returning home, set about to introduce the tradition to Strasburg. In 2006, without telling anyone, he cut logs and painted several santas and after Thanksgiving proceeded to set them around at the town businesses. More santas were added the next year, and it became known as the Santa Brigade. Later, the Strasburg Community Action Network took over painting the santas and selling them at the annual Santa Brigade Breakfast and Market in November. Many residents now also display their wooden santas during the holidays.



Store window in Bad Herrenalb



Wooden Santa faces covered with snow in Bad Herrenalb Germany



Brock Friese and Krystal Kull (Friese) standing next to a wooden santa in Bad Herrenalb

Kull is pleased that the tradition has continued since 2006, "It's a good feeling to have a tradition in Strasburg that came from the birthplace of my ancestors in Germany." Gary's great-great-great-great grandfather Jacob Frederick Kull came from Herrenalb Germany to the United States in 1830. Jacob Kull is also a grandfather to many others in the Strasburg community including: Roger Kull, Mark Kull, Kennedy Kull, Max Kull, Lisa Shelton, Zachary Shelton, Roxy

Shelton, Christine Storm, Darin Storm, Dalton Storm, Shelby Beltz, Mark Luce, Eva Braden, Dwight Braden, Larry Braden, Nick Braden, Bruce Krile, Justin Krile, Pat Wallace, Rick Wallace, Linda Oakley, Darryl Pikes, Neil Pikes, Lori Mathis, Fred Doehring, James Noffke, and several others.

Gnorman, the Strasburg Gnome, visits Santas at some of the Strasburg Merchants. He is thankful for all the small businesses in town and hopes you all support them! Santas are also displayed at several homes around town.



Remembering



Carl Ralph Lading, (October 25, 1931 - December 13, 2020) age 89, passed away at home at The Villas of Holly Brook in Effingham. He was a former resident of Strasburg, IL and a lifelong farmer.

Carl was born to Otto and Sophie (Holze) Lading. He attended St. Paul's grade school and graduated from Strasburg High School with the class of 1949. He was in the United States Air Force from 1952-1956 and proudly served his country in Japan and Gaum during the Korean War. Carl was an avid bowler playing on the Lutheran League for many years. He married D. Imogene Jackson on July 24, 1970 and they celebrated 50 years of marriage this past July. Imogene survives along with their niece, two nephews and many cousins.



Carl loved life and enjoyed traveling the United States. He had a great memory of boarding the Central Illinois Honor Flight to Washington DC on October 28, 2014 with his cousins. He was a lifelong member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Strasburg. He was a 50-year member of the Strasburg Lions Club and diligently worked at all Lions' functions. He also belonged to the Strasburg American Legion and worked at the Halloween celebrations each year.

Below are pictures from the SCAN Breakfast in November. Due to Covid, there was no Market this year. Customers did drive up, carry out or were able to eat in the Community Center. Thank you to all the SCAN and high school LEO volunteers who helped with the breakfast and to all who supported the event. The proceeds will help fund future renovations at the park.



SS Seasoned Citizens Meet Oct/Nov – Make Plans for December

The Strasburg-Stewardson Area Seasoned Citizens met on October 28. There was much food and fun held by all. The theme was school days and school pictures. Some very funny stories were told about one room schools and other things. The November meeting will be on the 18th with baked potatoes and baked sweet potatoes. Members always bring the topping for each. Hope to see you all there if you are over 50.

The Stewardson-Strasburg Seasoned Citizens will be celebrating Christmas and the New Year on Wednesday, **December 30th at noon** at the Strasburg Community Center. There will be a \$5 gift exchange (men bring man's gift, women bring woman's gift.) Connie will be bringing BBQ and everyone is asked to bring finger foods as the group celebrates Christmas, the end of 2020 and the hopes for a prosperous 2021!

Strasburg American Legion Auxiliary donates to Veterans

Strasburg American Legion Auxiliary Unit #289 Members Cinda Held, Jill Layton, Holly Giertz, Sarah Wyckoff and Linda Oakley along with Windsor ALA Unit Members Linda Elson and Linda Voris packed 60 Christmas bags for the homebound veterans at the Mattoon VA Outpatient Clinic. Veterans each received a fleece throw (homemade by Barb Olivier - thank you Barb), 2021 calendar, puzzle book, ink pen, body wash, box of Kleenex, 2 pairs of socks, hand towel with wash cloth, 1 can shaving cream, package of razors, toothpaste, toothbrush, powder, tube of lotion, Chapstick, granola bar, Little Bites cookie package, individual packages of cookies, 2 puddings, treat bag with chocolates, peppermints and a candy cane and a Christmas card. Funds for these items was donated by Mattoon ALA Unit #88, Windsor ALA Unit #729, Strasburg ALA Unit #289, and Mattoon VFW Post 4325. A special thank you to Barb Olivier for donating 60 fleece throws. Picture with workers does not show Sarah Wyckoff or Holly Giertz.



Each year the Strasburg American Legion Auxiliary asks members of the community to donate items to be taken to Illiana VA in Danville. Clothing, shoes, craft items, snacks, sugar free candy, etc. As always, our community is very generous. Items have been inventoried, boxed and will be delivered to Illiana within the next few weeks. Thank you, Strasburg!



STRASBURG LIONS CLUB ADDS NEW MEMBERS



The Strasburg Lions Club inducted two new members into their club at the November meeting.

Pictured L-R:
New member Zach Ritter, with sponsor Lion Jane Giertz,
Lion Justin Krile sponsor for new member Mike Foreman and Lion Jim Weiss

Congratulations to all the new members and thank you for serving our community!

Strasburg Merchant Christmas Greetings!

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and God's blessings to all. Thank you to all of my customers! I appreciate your business.

Kim Mettendorf – **Uptown Hair**

Warmest Holiday Greetings

From the folks at **Howe & Yockey Funeral Home**

Jack, Judy, Neil and Junior

A Stones Throw wishes a Merry Christmas

And Happy New Year to All!

Sue Pikesch & Joy Shumard

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

From the employees at the **Strasburg Post Office**

Barb and John

Wishing a Joyous Holiday to all & to all a Blessed New Year.

Thank you to our customers from all of us at **Shelby**

County State Bank-Strasburg Branch

Nate, Lisa, Karla, Sue, and Ashley

Thanks to all who let me serve you over the past year.

May you have a Merry Christmas and Happy Year.

God bless you all. **Karen Haarman**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

From Garrett Moffett, Marilyn Jansen & Lisa Rincker

Strasburg Country Financial

Merry Christmas and many good wishes for a new year of happiness and prosperity. Happy Holidays from **Olivier's**.

Thank you for supporting us.

Ed & Barb Olivier, 644-2677

Christmas is in the air!

Wishing you all the joy, hope and wonder of the season.

Gary Kull, **Kull Appliance** 644-3014 or 254-3141

Christmas Greetings from **Shortstop**

Subway 644-3287

Fuel/Pizza 644-3280

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Tom Newell

Newell Sand and Rock Filter Cleaning

Merry Christmas and many good wishes for a new year of happiness and prosperity.

From your friends at **The Effingham Equity**

Special Thanks to all our new friends and old for making **32 Below** a success.

Have a safe and happy holiday! - The Levitt Family, Chris, Heather, Jess, Lindsey, April & Alison

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Krile Auction Service

Bruce, Marcia, Justin

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

From **Powersport Focus, Inc.**

217-663-3669

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

From **Strasburg Feed Mill**

Donnie Strohl, Matt Tabbert and Matt Strohl

Wishing you all the joys of Christmas

and happiness throughout the New Year

Brigit Smith, **Studio B Hair Salon** 246-3187, 644-2219

May the peace and beauty of the season remain with you throughout the coming year.

Dad & Son's Lawncare – Kevin & Isaac – 273-1481

Wishing you the joy of family, the happiness of friends, and the love of Christmas!

Strasburg Volunteer Fire Department

Happy Holidays

Edwards Crafts- Angie and Jason Edwards

Wishing you the brightest of holidays!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Richland Creek Equipment, LLC – Brad and Lance

Montgomery

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

From everyone at **York Bin Company Inc.**

Wishing you and your loved ones all the wonder and magic of Christmas.

Tom Jewell Remodeling and Painting 217-823-2546

To the Village of Strasburg

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

From **Village President Cinda & Ed Held**





Hadley Musson visiting with
Mr. Snowman at the
Strasburg Post Office

Year End Giving Campaign for the Strasburg Community Foundation

Since 2012, The Strasburg Community Improvement Endowment Funds have awarded over \$28,000 in grants for village projects.

Your year-end gifts of \$10, \$25, \$100 or \$1,000 will all make a difference and enable the Village of Strasburg to better sustain their community.

Be part of the Strasburg Success!

Make checks payable to the Southeast Illinois Community Foundation – Strasburg Funds.

Return your donation to the Village of Strasburg or mail to
SICF, PO Box 1211, Effingham, IL 62401.

*The SICF is a 501©3 not-for-profit organization.
Your donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law.*



**PO Box 385
Strasburg, IL 62465**