OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020

GNOME NEWS

GNOME NEWS IS GOOD NEWS!

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Important Dates

Wed., Oct. 28 - SS Seasoned Citizens meet, noon

Fri., Oct. 30 – American Legion Auxiliary Halloween Soup Supper, 5-8 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 31 – Trick or Treat night, 6-8 p.m.

Sun., Nov. 1 – AL Christmas Auction, 1 p.m. Community Center

Sat., Nov. 14 – Santa Brigade Breakfast (Page 4)

Wed., Nov. 18 - SS Seasoned Citizens meet, noon

Sun., Dec. 6 – AL Christmas Auction, 1 p.m. Community Center

Dec. 11-12 – ALA Christmas Store

Sat., Dec. 12 – Santa at **Community Center**

Sat., Dec. 12 – Village Year-End Celebration, Soup Supper 4-6 p.m., Recognition at 6 p.m.

Reminder **4-WHEELERS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON VILLAGE STREETS WITHOUT A** PERMIT.

The village has received several complaints about 4-wheelers with multiple riders on the roads. Let us fix this problem ourselves so no other authorities need to be called in. For everyone's safety, stay off the streets unless you are on a permitted vehicle.

Message from the Mayor

Fall Greetings! This is my favorite time of the year. I love the colors, the fresh air, the sounds of tractors in the field and the smell of wiener roasts, tilled soil, and apple cider. I enjoy going to the pumpkin patch and the apple orchard. I have my fall outside work done and I'm ready to hibernate in the winter.

This has been a different year, but Strasburg has carried on as normally as possible. It is time to acknowledge our outstanding volunteers for this year. That person will be announced at the

STRASBURG AMERICAN **LEGION AUXILIARY'S** HALLOWEEN SOUP SUPPER Friday, October 30, 2020 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM , ĉ **CARRY OUT OR** **DRIVE THROUGH** SOUPS Chili **Chicken Noodle** SANDWICHES ,¢ BBQ , C Hot Dog **Polish Sausage** PIE

FREE WILL DONATION

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Cinda Held

SCAN Soup Supper on December 12. £ Now is the time to send in a recommendation for "Volunteer of the Year". Email or mail your nomination to Linda Oakley at the Village Office. Now is also the time to think about

decorating the town for the holidays. Strasburg does a good job of joining in the spirit of Christmas with many nicely decorated homes. There is no sign-up this year. It will be a people's choice award. There will be cans at Marathon, Village Hall and the Bank (if it's open) for voting. As you drive through town, pick out your favorites. You can vote more than once. Just drop in the name or address of your favorite decorations by December 17.

Have you considered public service as a way to contribute to our community? Would you like to be part of the solution to helping the Village of Strasburg? The Mayor and 4 Trustee seats will be vacant in the spring. Pick up a petition now, get the signatures needed and return it between Dec. 14-21. The Village board meets the 3rd Monday of the month and there are some community activities you are asked to attend.

The board has begun to market the north end of York Acres. Before we begin any utility work we want to sell some lots. We have 3 lots still available to the south and there will be 8-9 lots on the north side. The maps are available for viewing at the village office. The final cost of the lots has not been determined, but they will be very affordable. If you or someone you know is looking to build in a nice neighborhood, come check things out.

Thanks for helping keep Strasburg Right! In The Middle of Everything!



2013 WINNER

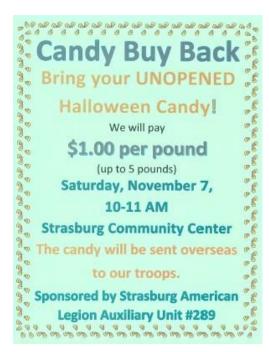
GOVERNOR'S HOME TOWN AWARD



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Stew-Stras Area Seasoned Citizens meeting monthly again

The Strasburg-Stewardson Seasoned Citizens group has returned to meetings and had a group of 11 at the September meeting. We had great food and fellowship, told a few stories and jokes, played Bingo for prizes, and decided on the October meeting. The October meeting will be the last Wednesday of the month at noon, and we will have Tacos and Taco salads. Everyone has volunteered to bring the necessities and of course there will be great desserts. Barb Morrison provided the door prize of a jar of peanuts and a candy corn assortment. This was won by Jane. All seniors in the area are invited to attend. Hope to see more of you this month. If you want to wear a costume you can since it is close to Halloween. We invite all who are 55 or over to join us on the last Wednesday of the month at the Strasburg Community Center at noon. *Submitted by Jane Giertz*



"Operation Candy Buy Back"

sponsored by Strasburg American Legion Auxiliary Unit #289 will be held on Saturday, November 7 from 10:00-11:00 AM at the Strasburg Community Center. Does your child have an excess of Halloween candy? The Auxiliary will pay your child \$1 for each pound of candy turned in up to \$5. Notes to our servicemen and women to include in the boxes are also welcomed!



THE VILLAGE OF STRASBURG NEEDS YOU!

Petitions are now available at the Strasburg Village Office for Mayor (President) and Trustee positions to be elected at the April 6, 2021 Consolidated Election.

The Village will elect 3 trustees for a four-year term, 1 trustee for a two-year unexpired term and a Village President for a four-year term. Candidates must have lived in within the Village limits for at least one year; must be 18 years of age and a registered voter; and must not have been convicted of bribery, perjury or other felony.

Petitions may be picked up at the Village Office during regular office hours 8-noon and 1-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Completed petitions are filed with the Village Clerk between December 14 and December 21, 2020.

Strasburg Planning Annual Halloween Soup Supper October 30th

Strasburg's Annual Halloween Soup Supper has been slated for Friday, October 30 at the Strasburg Community Center.

Sponsored by the Strasburg Liberty American Legion Auxiliary Unit #289, the soup supper will be held from 5-8 PM and will be carry-out or drive through. (Customers are asked to pull in on the west side of Community Center to the back of the building for Drive Through)

The Auxiliary will be serving chili, chicken noodle soup, BBQ, hot dogs, polish sausage and homemade pie. Cost is a free-will donation. Due to Covid the American Legion Post will not be holding their masked parade and cake walk. They look forward to celebrating next year.

This is the Auxiliary's major fundraiser to support the various programs in the community and with our veterans. Please support this worthy cause.

<u>STRASBURG AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – ANNUAL VETERANS NEEDS COLLECTION</u>

The Strasburg American Legion Auxiliary is again conducting their Annual Veterans Needs Collection for Illiana VA Facility (Danville) during the month of November. <u>Only new clothing</u> is currently being accepted at the VA facilities. Donations can be left at the Strasburg Community Center on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday when Village Office is open.

PERSONAL Needs

3-1 Body Wash, 2-1 Body Wash, Vaseline, Body Powder, Foot Powder, Body Lotion, Baby Lotion, Baby Powder, Body Spray, After Shave (with no alcohol content), Alcohol-Free Mouthwash,

Toothbrushes, Denture Brushes, Snacks (crackers, cookies, chips, candy, jello, pudding, raisins, nuts, chocolate candy bars, and anything in sugar-free form)

CRAFT ROOM Needs

Canvas to paint (any sizes), Paints, , Model glue, Military helicopter models, Thin markers, Any type of leather kits, Anything to paint, Wood craft kits to put together, Paracord

CLOTHING ROOM Needs

Jeans (variety of sizes starting with waist 32 up to 44 and length 30 to 36) Tennis shoes (Velcro or tie) Sizes range from 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 12 Sweatshirts and sweatpants all sizes (not many small but M to 2X T-Shirts – M – 2X, Thermal pants and shirts

Nominations for Candidates for Volunteer of the Year due November 16th

Each year a member of the community, whose volunteer activities have benefited the Strasburg Community, has been presented the "Volunteer of the Year" award. The Village Board is asking that members of the community nominate an individual that they think is deserving of this award.

<u>Eligibility</u> - Any individual, group, business, or organization whose volunteer activities directly benefit the Village of Strasburg and/or its residents is eligible.

Nominee Criteria - Nominees must:

- Demonstrate exceptional commitment to volunteerism by helping with a special project or ongoing activities
- Demonstrate exemplary leadership, creativity, cooperation, and hard work in their service to others
- Serve as role models by inspiring others to serve

A letter of nomination citing the points or reasons the nominator feels like the candidate deserves to be named Volunteer of the Year should be submitted to the Strasburg Village Office prior to November 16, 2020. A committee will review the nominations and will select the winner. The Volunteer of the Year award for 2020 will be presented at the Recognition Celebration /Soup Supper on Saturday, December 12.

Previous winners of the award are: 2007 Larry Giertz, 2008 Gary Kull, 2009 Linda Oakley, 2010 Patsy Lenz, 2011 Karen Kull and Lisa Shelton, 2012 Chris Daniels, 2013 Jane Giertz, 2014 Charlie Culver, 2015 Jodie Quast, 2016 Brittany Kaufman, 2017 Jim Weiss and Justin Krile, 2018 Angie and Jason Edwards, and 2019 Doug Quast.

CHRISTMAS LIGHT CONTEST

The Annual "Light Up Strasburg" Christmas Light contest will again be held this year. Residents do not need to sign up. It will be a people's choice award. Cans to vote for your favorite homes will be at Marathon, Village Hall and the Bank. You can vote more than once. Cast your vote by dropping the name or address in the cans from December 7-17.



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ALA CHRISTMAS STORE

COMING DEC. 11-12

ANNUAL COOKIE WALK, \$5/lb.

DRAWING - WIN A DESSERT A MONTH FOR ONE YEAR

WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS IN DECEMBER



COUNTRY Financial presents check to the Strasburg Fire Protection District



Healthcare workers and first responders are on the frontlines each day, risking their lives to take care of those in our communities. COUNTRY Financial is stepping in to say

THANK YOU by providing funds for much-needed equipment and supplies through a project called Operation Helping Heroes. COUNTRY Financial representatives have committed to investing over \$3 million dollars in 2020 to local first responders, military service groups and medical professionals. On Wednesday, September 16th, the COUNTRY Financial – Garett Moffett Agency of Strasburg presented the Strasburg Fire Protection District with a \$1,500 donation. Shown is John Beldon, Fire District Board member, Charlie Culver, Asst Fire Chief, Troy Agney, Fire Chief and Garett Moffett, COUNTRY Financial Representative.

Strasburg Liberty Post #289 American Legion Hosts Fundraiser

The Annual Christmas Auctions sponsored by Strasburg Liberty Post #289 of the American Legion will be held at 1:00 pm on Sunday, November 1st and again on Sunday, December 6th at the Community Center in Strasburg. The auction by Thomas Factory Outlet, with Dennis Aumann Auctioneer, is the major fundraiser for the American Legion Post. The Post uses the proceeds from the auction to donate the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Americanism Essay prize money, Legion Baseball, the Strasburg Veteran's Memorial, Community Blood Drive, Stewardson-Strasburg Yearbook, Post Prom Activities, and American Legion Gifts to Yanks among other programs.

Auction items include Craftsman tools, toys, metal signs, food items, figurines, baskets, wind spinners, china cabinets, yard ornaments, pie safes, bikes, trikes, ceramic, dolls, lanterns and much more. This is the perfect time to do your Christmas Shopping! Masks and hand sanitizer will be available.

A concession stand sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #289 will be available.



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Homeowners utilizing their creative side in the spirit of Halloween.

Left-Dylan & Amelia Ohnesorge Right-James Noffke

Watch for a place to post your costume pictures on the Strasburg Facebook page



Strasburg Community Foundation

Keep it Going – Keep it Growing

What is the Strasburg Community Foundation?

The Strasburg Community Foundation enables us to come together to grow and enhance our community for years to come. Your generous donations have helped local groups and businesses update equipment and make needed improvements for the betterment of the community. There is both a short-term and long-range fund. Both funds are managed by your local foundation board through the Southeastern Illinois Community Foundation – a regional professional organization that manages assets for Strasburg as well as a wide range of charitable funds. **What is the difference in the short-term and long-range funds?**

The short-term funds help fund projects and grants approved by the foundation board. The long-range funds will stay in place in perpetuity – only increasing in value. When you donate, you get the chose where your money goes. You can divide your generous donation equally to both funds as well. A portion of the gains can be taken out by the Board for grants or projects.

Who decides how the funds are used?

The Strasburg Community Foundation board members review grant requests. Any local business or organization can complete and submit a grant request between January 1 – March 31 every year. The amount given and projects chosen by the board depend on the funds available for that year. Foundation Board members include: Larry Giertz, John Helton, Tim Lenz, Ramona Radloff, Jodie Quast and Courtney Wittenberg. If you have any questions, please reach out to a board member.

Our success:

Since 2012, The Strasburg Community Improvement/Endowment short- term funds have awarded over \$28,000 in grants to local organizations and businesses. The long-range Endowment fund has grown to over \$59,000. These amazing totals would not be possible without your generous donations.

How can I donate?

Anyone may send donations to the Southeast Illinois Community Foundation-Strasburg Funds, 2701 S. Banker St., Suite 102A, PO Box 1211, Effingham, IL 62401. Your donations are tax- deductible to the extent allowed by law. Every donation from the smallest to the largest is so important to the Foundation and will benefit Strasburg!

Thank you so much for past and future support in keeping Strasburg Right! In the middle of everything!



ANGEL TREE

Sponsored by: Stewardson-Strasburg Parent-Teacher-Student Association

The Stewardson-Strasburg PTSA is organizing an Angel Tree project for the upcoming Christmas season. This project will go towards spreading a little extra Christmas cheer to students and families right here in the Stewardson-Strasburg community!

Beginning Monday, November 2, we will begin collecting monetary donations towards our annual Angel Tree project for the upcoming holiday season. With your generosity, we have been able to assist multiple students (multiple families) over the past several years with gifts, groceries, etc, during the holiday season. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated! If you wish to participate in this project, please send your contribution to the school with your student for him/her to place in the decorated Angel Tree box in either the Elementary/Jr. High Office or the High School Office <u>on or before Friday</u>, November 20. Shopping for our "angels" will commence soon thereafter! Please make checks payable to: Stew-Stras PTSA---Christmas

Checks may also be mailed to: Stewardson-Strasburg High School, 2806 E 600 North Rd, Strasburg, IL 62465

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Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11

Thank a veteran for his/her service, by Cinda Held

The American Legion Auxiliary has supported Veterans since 1920. This is the 100th anniversary of the ALA. While the Legion Post #289 was chartered in 1919, the Strasburg Liberty Unit #289 was chartered after WWII in 1946. Our mission is to serve Veterans, Military Families and our Community. We have supported veterans in various ways from hosting a cigarette drive in the 1950's to providing gifts to homebound veterans in the 2010's.

We are proud of our veterans and social media has allowed us to share our veterans and their time in the service with more people. Visit our Facebook page "ALA Strasburg Unit #289" to see the veterans which have been posted. Two veterans are posted each day (unless I forget): 1 living veteran and 1 deceased veteran. I post any information I have concerning their service. I will continue to post pictures until I have posted all I have. If you know any local veteran (living or deceased) that I do not have, please send a digital picture to sportmama_98@yahoo.com or drop a picture and information about the veteran (branch of military, years of service, any wartime or other noteworthy information) by the Strasburg Village office. Our Service is because of their Service.

You can find these veterans listed on the ALA Facebook page in September and October. Watch for more posts to come.

Gustave Cress, Corporal, Army, 1918-19 Juanita Doeding Weber, Army, WWII Liz Giertz, Captain, Army, 1997-2006 Noel Nippe, Army, Korean Conflict, 1954 Earl Renshaw, Army, WWII Tom Grove, Army, 2001-05 John Pikesh, Union Army, Civil War Larry Storm, Army, Vietnam Conflict W.C. "Rip" Storm, Army, Korean Conflict Justin Conder, Sgt., Marines, 2000's Harold Hartman, Army, 1980-83 Dwight Lading, Army, Korean Conflict Theo Von Behren, Army, 1918-19 Derryl Pikesh, Illinois National Guard, 1967-74 Merle Ragan, Army, 1956-59 Gene Telgmann, Army, 1950-52 Wiley Mathis, Army, Korean Conflict Dave Boyer, Army, Viet Nam 1960's Lawrence Stremming, Army, Korean Conflict Mark Ostermeier, Staff Sgt., Army, 1970-74 Patrick Merriman, ROTC, Air Force, 1999-2014 Tom Newell, Army, 1960's

Carl Lading, Staff Sergeant, Air Force, 1952-56 Matt Giertz, Lt. Colonel, Army, 1998-2020 John Waters, Master Sgt. Air Force, 1968-88 Steve Giertz, Army, Vietnam Conflict, 1966-68 Ken Knop, Army, WWII George Kull, Pvt., Army, 1918-19 Dave Durbin, Air Force, 1961-63 Josh Layton, Sgt., Marines, 2006-16, Reserves 2020-present Donnie Wallace, Army, 1960's Elmer Richards, Army, 1918-19 Fred Popendicker, Pvt. 1st class, Army, 1918-19 Tom Wallin, currently with Illinois National Guard Ed Ostermeier, Army, 1918-19 Dale Rincker, Army, 1942-45 Larry Giertz, Army, 1962-65, National Guard 1980-2003 Howard Hartman Sr., Army, 1949-52 Jeremy Hartman, Army National Guard, 2009-present Glen Spannagel, Army, Korean Conflict Dwight Ostermeier, PFC, Army, 1943-46 Nelson Ruff, PFC, 1917-19 Kenneth Wilson, Army, WWII, Killed in action 4-20-1944

A Veteran Story

Gene Telgmann drafted Nov. 1950, Discharged Sept. 1952. Gene reported to Fort Breckingridge Kentucky. On his way to Germany, he traveled via train through Effingham on New Year's Eve. He said that was very hard on him knowing his family was so close and they would have gone to Effingham to wave at him if they were notified. While in Germany, Gene was a supply handler.

After being discharged, Gene and wife Helen met up regularly in various states with two and later three of Gene's army brothers and their wives most years from 1971 until 2008. The army buddies were from Pennslvania, New York and South Carolina.

Gene never talked much about his time in Germany but did have a story about coming home. They were traveling via ship from Germany to the USA and were in the path of a storm. They were told that the ship was going to capsize, and they would all lose their lives. Thankfully that never happened. Thank you for your service, Gene!



Generations of local family devotes years of service

By Linda Storm Oakley and Jill Storm Layton

When W.C. "Rip" Storm served in the Army in WWII (2/27/1945-10/30/1946), little did he know of the years of dedication to the Veterans he and his bride and family would serve. Rip was part of the Army Unit tasked with liberating the Philippines. Rip was very proud of his service but was not one to tell war stories. When Rip returned from his service in WWII, he joined the Strasburg American Legion Post 289. His wife Lila joined the American Legion Auxiliary. They made sure every daughter and granddaughter was signed up as a member soon after birth. Rip and Lila were very active in the Post/Unit (local), County, and District American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary. The Legion and Auxiliary serve the Veterans, their families, and the community. You saw Rip and Lila (and many of their children) working the Annual Halloween Soup Supper and the Annual Easter Egg Hunt every year. They put flags on the Veterans' graves near Memorial Day so all Veterans would be remembered. Rip and Lila would deliver fruit baskets to fellow Veterans and wheel chairs and walkers when needed. Lila was posthumously awarded Rip's Legion 50-year membership certificate two weeks after his passing.

It was not easy for this family when the oldest brother, Larry Storm, left on April 25th, 1966 to serve in the Army in Vietnam. Larry served in the Big Red One. Lila would sit at the kitchen table every morning after the children got on the school bus and would write Larry a letter on the airmail stationery with the red and blue stripes on the sides. There were recorded audio tapes (on the big round reels) sent back and forth as well. Larry's tour ended on January 28, 1968. Rip did what he could to help the Vietnam Veterans as he knew that in war, there are no unwounded soldiers. Larry has been an active member of Liberty Post 289 since returning from Vietnam.

For the next 70 years, this family remained active in the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. All of their children but one attended Premier Boys State or ALA Illini Girls State, and the tradition continued as all of the granddaughters and now great-granddaughters have attended ALA Illini Girls State. Daughter Linda Oakley, active on the Unit, District, Division and Department (State) level, also has served as the VA Representative at the Mattoon VA Clinic for over 11 years. Until Covid, you could find her volunteering there every Friday serving coffee, cookies and fresh made popcorn to our Veterans and their families that were at the clinic for their appointments. As Linda has said many times, Fridays were her "feel good" day. Putting a smile on a Veteran's face and listening to stories that she may have heard several times was her way of letting each Veteran know that they are important. She also coordinates the volunteers who make the reminder phone calls for appointments. Linda also has the maps and leads the members of the Auxiliary, including the junior members, in placing the flags on five cemeteries each May, a tradition Rip and Lila took over from Elmer Richards and now the 4th generation is participating in. Daughter Jill Layton is very active in the Veterans' History Project, recording verbatim the Veterans' stories. The Veteran is given a copy of their interview to pass down to their children and grandchildren, a copy is sent to the Illinois State Library, and a copy goes to the Library of Congress in Washington DC.

On Mother's Day, 2007, Rip's grandson Josh Layton left for the Marines. Josh served in the Marines from May 14, 2007 to October 16, 2016. Josh was in Iraq and Afghanistan. Josh is currently in the Marine Reserves. When Larry was serving in Vietnam, Lila would write him a letter every day. When Josh was deployed, mother Jill would write him a letter – but it was an email. The communication from Veteran to family had changed so much from Rip's service in WWII to Josh's service. But the same sense of pride but constant fear was the same. The grasping of any news of the happenings across the oceans had not changed either. Josh took his commitment to helping fellow comrades on to his civilian life. Josh is the Veteran Service Officer in Effingham, Illinois, serving Veterans in 20 counties.

"Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world. A Veteran does not have that problem." Ronald Reagan

~Remembering~

Donald D. Wallace, 79 (July 26, 1941 - September 29, 2020)

Donald D. Wallace of Strasburg was born on July 26, 1941 in Windsor, IL, the son of Clyde Everett and Carolyn Emma (Lenz) Wallace. He was a graduate of Stewardson-Strasburg High School in the class of 1959. Donnie was a U.S. Army Veteran, serving during the Vietnam War. He married Patricia Lynn Keller on January 27, 1968. Donnie worked as a machinist and later as a supervisor at Anaconda/Anamet in Mattoon, IL. He was a member of the Strasburg American Legion Post #289, Strasburg Fire Department, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Strasburg, IL, where he taught Sunday school for many years. Donnie coached the Strasburg American Legion Baseball Team for over 20 years and was an avid fan of the St. Louis Cardinals. Donnie is survived by his wife, Patricia; son, Rick Wallace of Strasburg, IL; daughter, Kimberly Storm (Brad) of Lakewood, IL; granddaughters, Emmalee Storm and Ella Storm.

Donald F. Gibson, 76 (March 5, 1944 - October 7, 2020)

Donald Floyd "Don" Gibson, was born on March 5, 1944, in Harvey, IL, the son of Floyd E. and Evalene Frances (Yatsak) Gibson. He attended Thornton Township High School, and graduated in the class of 1962. Don went on to work as fork truck operator for McLean Trucking Company in Chicago, IL, and retired from Justrite Manufacturing in Mattoon, IL. He has one son, David, from a previous marriage. On September 30, 2000, Don married Dianna L. Spannagel and they enjoyed twenty years of marriage. Don was a member of Teamsters Local 710, Effingham Gun Club, and enjoyed fishing, target shooting, playing his guitars, and tinkering to make things better. Don is survived by his wife, Dianna and son, David Gibson of Chula Vista, CA.



PO Box 385 Strasburg, IL 62465



