

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

Jan. 8 – LYF (Grace, St. Paul's & Trinity Youth) Soup Luncheon, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Trinity Church, Stewardson

Jan. 24 – SCAN Quarterly Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Community Center

Feb. 5 – Post Prom Basket Binga, 2 p.m., Community Center

Feb. 25 - Lions Pancake/Sausage Breakfast, 6-10 a.m., Community Center

Mar. 24 – Lions Fish Fry, 4:30-7 p.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.

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

They say "Time flies when you're having fun"! Well, I must have had a lot of fun in 2022.

The village has been involved in a lot of big projects this past year that will continue for the next year and a half. We count them as our successes. These include the upgrading of the Park Lift Station. A big "THANK YOU" to Tom Newell and Blake Pree for all their hard work on that project as well as work at the lagoon.

Another great thing that happened was receiving \$318,000 from the State of Illinois OSLAD grant. This is a matching grant so the village must kick in \$318,000 too. We are about half-way there in funding this project. We are working with Utz & Associates and Milano & Grunloh in the design process. Big changes will take place in the park in 2023-2024.

As many of you know the Village is working with Stewardson-Strasburg District 5-A in a sewer line from the school to the village lagoon. New funding is available through the EPA for the Village to take advantage of. More details on this project will be coming later in the year.

Hats off to the fundraising efforts and success of the 150th Committee. Sue and Jodie and other committee members have thought outside the box and have offered some wonderful events for our community these past few months. I hope you were able to attend some of them.

Foundation letters have gone out. If you are considering making a donation, both the Park project and the 150th anniversary can use your help. The Park project will benefit all members of our community for years to come. We want the Park to be a place where families want to go, and we want it to be safe. We want to carry on and improve what our parents and grandparents accomplished before us. What better way to celebrate their and our hopes for the future than a celebration in 2024.

Ron Thomas has officially become our Village maintenance employee. Todd Apke continues to help when we need an extra hand. They deserve a big Thank you for the wonderful job they did in decorating the park for Christmas. Let them know you appreciate their efforts. If you'd like to see more Christmas at the park, you can sponsor a decoration for 2023. Ask our Village Clerk Linda for more information.

Finally, I want to say Great Job to all who decorated their homes this Christmas season. Our town looks wonderful. It made for a tough decision for the Judges this year. I hope for Strasburg to be happy, healthy and safe in 2023. Working together will make this happen.

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



Cinda Held

Light Up Strasburg Winners:

1st Jared & Caralea Smith, 2 York Drive
2nd Josh and Danielle Storm, 5 York Drive
3rd Thomas and Kristina Moore, 306 N Elizabeth

Winners will receive a credit on their sewer bill. The Village Board wishes to thank all those community members who helped to "Light Up Strasburg."



SCAN Santa Brigade Breakfast and Market huge success

The Strasburg Community Action Network would like to thank all who helped with and attended the 15th annual Santa Brigade Breakfast & Market in November. All enjoyed the beautiful

Christmas melodies provided at the breakfast by the trombone trio of Dennis Lading, Dr. Ian Kinkley, Stephanie Kinkley and Krystal Friese on the clavinova. Proceeds will help fund improvements in the village.

Thank you to all who attended and participated!

Please join us for the next SCAN quarterly meeting on Tues., Jan. 24 at 6:30 p.m.



Above: Mary Tabbert, Mariah Williams and baby Oaklyn enjoy the breakfast.
Left & Below: Shoppers enjoy the Market; Breakfast



Strasburg 150th Anniversary Celebration – 2024

The Strasburg 150th Celebration Committee has been busy with fundraising during September–December.

Sept: *A bake sale was held on Commercial Street during the Townwide
*Fall Rummage Sale day

Oct: *Around 250 people enjoyed a meal of CASS's Burritos

Nov: *100 Tickets were sold for the Golf Ball Drop. Tickets corresponded to numbered golf balls dropped from above. \$5,000 was awarded to the person whose golf ball landed closest to the flag. The winners, Josh and Pam Porter, graciously donated \$2500 of their winnings back to Strasburg 150th Anniversary Celebration. Thank you, Porter family!
Food trucks were in the park the day of the event and committee members sold coffee, hot chocolate and cinnamon rolls.

Shown above right: Josh, son Hayden, and Pam Porter

*1874-2024 Commemorative ornaments (pictured right) were sold at the SCAN Breakfast and a few are still available for sale at the Shelby County State Bank in Strasburg. The wooden ornaments were manufactured by the Stewardson-Strasburg High School Industrial Arts class. Ornament design was by Madison Antrim.

Dec: *Orders were sold for fresh baked cinnamon rolls

*Live Nativity – Twelve local residents portrayed the Nativity Scene in Bethlehem

Shepherds: Aaron Vonderheide, Bonnie Vonderheide, Zach Shelton
Angels: Bekah Kobielnik, Dawneka Kobielnik, Erica Davis
Mary & Joseph: Sue and Chris Bowers

Wisemen: Otto Rincker, Andy Rincker, Mary Tabbert

The committee also served hot chocolate and cookies in the community center.



WSS Hatchets Volleyball Players Receive Honors

Three Windsor/Stews-Stras volleyball players have been named to the National Trail Conference All-Conference Volleyball Team for 2022. Halle Moomaw, Ella Kinkelaar and Gabby Vonderheide were selected to First Team and Kinley Quast received an Honorable Mention. Moomaw was named Most Valuable Player for 2022!

Strasburg 150th Anniversary Celebration Commemorative Book

We are looking for your stories about Strasburg for the 150th Commemorative Book! Whether you live in Strasburg now (or in the country around Strasburg), or used to live in Strasburg, we would love for you to share your stories and memories with us. We welcome stories about the “good ol’ days,” as well as present day stories, which are future “good ol’ days.”

You may share your stories electronically via email to info@strasburgil.com or by dropping off a written story to the Village Office at the Community Center during regular business hours. Please include a photograph to go along with your story if you have one. Please be aware that we will edit your story for grammar and punctuation and may edit it down due to space restrictions.

Instead of writing yourself, you may also “tell your story”. Just give Ellen Dollarhide McCoy a call at 217.690.0112 and she will record and write your story for you.

Recording the history and memories of our village is so important. Please be a part of it!

Topic Suggestions: Growing Up in Strasburg | Raising Children in Strasburg | Going to School in Strasburg | What’s for Dinner in Strasburg | Sundays in Strasburg | Christmastime in Strasburg | Summer in Strasburg | Your Favorite Day in Strasburg | Club Events | Hunting, Fishing or Farming in Strasburg | Doing Business in Strasburg | Helping Each Other in Strasburg | Strasburg at War | Create Your Own

Look for more news, events and how you can help on “Strasburg’s 150th Anniversary Celebration” Facebook Page! Please attend the next 150th Meeting in February.

Trinity Cardinals finished 2nd at the Lutheran School Association State Volleyball Tournament

Stewardson Trinity Junior High School finished second at the Lutheran Sports Association (LSA) State Volleyball Tournament in November. The Cardinals competed with 20 other Lutheran junior high schools across the state.

The Stewardson Trinity Cardinals. Pictured from L-R (back row) are head coach Tammy Manhart, Emma Hickman, Lydia Weaver, Tabitha Weaver, Kierra Mueller, Kalia Friese, Callie Friese, Gabby Cushman, Abree Zalman, assistant coach Katie Durbin, and assistant coach Bridgitte Friese. Pictured from L-R (front row) are Rachel Weaver, Kenzie Thompsen, Sienna Bostedo, Zaida Wascher, Colby McCormick, Mya Friese, Carrah Daniels, and Elizabeth Hampton.



Left – Santa visits with Brielle Friese at the Strasburg Community Center in Dec.

Right - The Stewardson-Strasburg High School Band performing at the American Legion Halloween Parade in Oct.



Strasburg History excerpt #3: The following was taken from “Strasburg, Illinois Hundartjahrfest 1874-1974,” How It All Began

So ends the story of our territory before Strasburg was. On to the town itself. It's recorded that Charles Ostermeier put up a store building where Renshaw's (*currently the Marathon Station) now stands. He opened a general store and supplied the nucleus of the future town. In 1874 when the railroad was completed through Richland Township, Ostermeier laid out 40 acres of land surrounding his store for the site of the town. He named it Strasburg for his native Strasburg in Germany. The streets he named after those in St. Louis. From an early plat book, we quote, “Strasburg has 150 souls and was platted March 7, 1874, by Charles Ostermeier.” The original plat of Strasburg was east of the “slab” (*currently Rt 32). The land west of the road was prairie and was farmed for a number of years.

The first money crop around Strasburg was wheat. At one time special trains were run to town during harvest. As time went on most of the marsh land was reclaimed and made tillable by tiling. Around Strasburg it's not uncommon to find a farm with as much as two or three miles of tile. Ostermeier's store and Strasburg itself prospered.

The first building to be put up after Strasburg was laid out was Allen's Hotel, run by R. H. and A. F. Allen and located where Max Weber now lives (*currently where Chris & Sue Bowers live). Frank Beck was first postmaster. W. D. Fink was first blacksmith, and William Telgmann moved his brick yard in from a few miles out of town and established himself as first in the brick making business. Other first businessmen were: druggist-J. H. Wiandt; general merchant-Martin Hamm, Storm, Henry Faster Sr.; wagon shop-R. Rolbiger; sawmill-W. Bowen; grain dealer-J. D. Endicott; doctor-Dr. Amos York; shoemaker-Wm. Winkler; saloon-M. J. Laughlin; hotel and saloon-A. F. VanRheeden.

The town of Strasburg was incorporated in 1882, and Beulah Gordon records that story:

After the Lutheran Church was built at its present site about a quarter of a mile south of Strasburg, some citizens began to agitate for moving the business houses there. Lawrence Zurr, then postmaster, took his post office to that section, and a store, drug store, saloon, and grain buying office soon were established in “South Burg.” This rivalry of the original town was just over the line in Prairie Township. Citizens of “North Burg” sensing the danger that threatened, decided to incorporate the town and exclude the upstart “South Burg” from its limits. Secret meetings were held in the garret over the blacksmith shop, and ways and means were plotted and discussed. Here it was brought to light that thirty votes were needed to carry the measure, and that “North Burg” had only twenty-eight citizens to support it, while “South Burg” had thirty citizens who would vote it down. After some thought, Ostermeier and his followers schemed a scheme, and cautiously set about to execute it. Three young fellows from the country were induced to bring their washings to “North Burg,” spend their Sundays in that place, and thus establish a legal residence there. When the specified time had elapsed and the three were bonified citizens of the village, and North Burgers demanded a vote on the matter of incorporation, and strange to say, triumphantly won the election by a majority of one ballot. (In the town board records of November 4, 1878, \$20.00 was paid to Mouser and Kelley “for their services in assisting to incorporate the village of Strasburg.”)



WSS Basketball Team Successful

Congratulations to the Boys WSS Basketball team for winning 1st place at the St. Elmo Brownstown Holiday Tournament and 2nd place at the Tri-County Holiday Tournament in Dec. A special congratulations to Austin and Jordan Wittenberg for being named 1st team All Tournament at St. Elmo.

Stew-Stras crowns Rincker, Wetherell 2022



Homecoming royalty

Stewardson/Strasburg High School crowned its Homecoming royalty on Dec. 9 following the basketball game with Shelbyville. The 2022 Homecoming Queen is Maddie Rincker, daughter of Doug and Marla Rincker. Homecoming King is Tyler Wetherell, son of Luke and Lauren Wetherell.



JANUARY 8, 2023

•11 AM-1 PM•

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
STEWARDSON, IL**

MENU:

Chili and Chicken Noodle Soup,
Hot Dogs, Potato Chips,
Desserts and Beverages

Free Will Donations Accepted

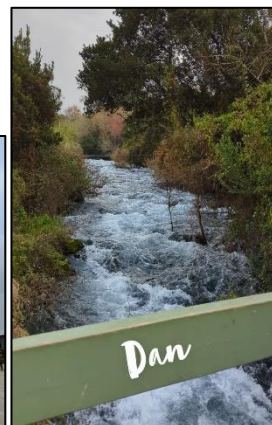
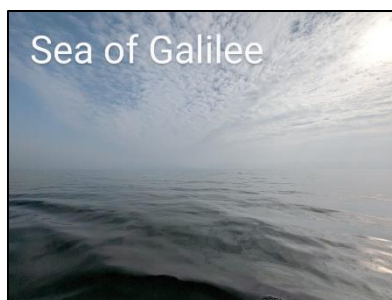
Proceeds will benefit the Grace/St. Paul/Trinity LYF in preparation for their various trips and activities.

Exploring Israel, by Kristina Moore

When people think about exploring the world, there are countless places one could go. According to trip advisor, the five most popular world destinations to visit are Dubai, London, Cancun, Bali, and Crete. However, I was given the opportunity to go and explore a place not so popular. Israel, most known as the Holy Land and where Christianity began. Israel is a unique place to visit because there are so many national parks and nature reserves for people to explore.

I was given the opportunity to visit Israel along with 8 other people from December 9th to December 18th in 2022. With one stop and not counting our layover, our flights totaled around 14 hours to get there. However, once there we had the chance to visit over fifteen different sites. Those sites were biblical and historical locations which influence Christianity today. The weather was great (around 68 degrees) and the scenery at each site was beautiful. The terrain in Israel is very different compared to Illinois. Geographically it is very mountainous, from desert mountains to snowcapped mountains.

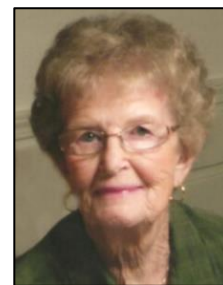
A few of my favorite sites (pictured) were the Sea of Galilee, Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, and Dan. Other sites we were able to explore included Masada, En Gedi, Qumran Park, Bet She'an, Arbel, Korazim, Hermon Stream (Banias), Zippori, Jerusalem, Caesarea, the Dead Sea, Bethlehem, and Shiloh. I am thankful for the experience of being able to explore and learn about Israel. I would recommend anyone with the opportunity to go visit.



~Remembering~

Elizabeth A. Stremming, 98, of Strasburg *(October 13, 1924 – October 26, 2022)*

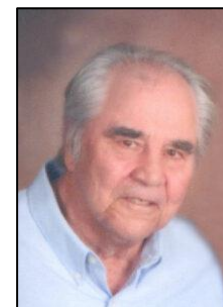
Elizabeth was the daughter of Orvel and Cora Edith (Maurer) Latch. She married Floyd Franklin Stremming on November 8, 1942 and he preceded her in death on October 18, 2014. Elizabeth worked at Kuehne Manufacturing Company in Mattoon, IL, the Shoe Factory in Sullivan, IL, the Glove Factory in Effingham, IL and retired from Crossroads Printing Company in Effingham, IL. Elizabeth was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Strasburg, IL.



Elizabeth is survived by her daughter, Phyllis Weiss and husband Jim of Strasburg, IL; daughter-in-law, Lynn Stremming of Jacksonville, IL; four grandchildren, six great grandchildren; and three step great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Floyd F. Stremming and son, Gene Stremming.

Kenneth “Ken” W. Hagan, 80, of Strasburg, IL *(January 16, 1942 – November 3, 2022)*

Ken was the son of Malcolm and Ruth (Williamson) Hagan. He was a graduate of Blue Mound High School. Ken married Neva Marie Lenz on March 22, 1991. Ken enjoyed construction and worked with his brother Mike for several years as a contractor for Hagan Construction in Decatur, IL. He was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Strasburg, IL. Ken enjoyed riding his Honda Gold Wing motorcycle, watching the St. Louis Cardinals and the Chicago Bears, and spending time with all his grandchildren.



Ken is survived by his wife, Neva; son, Craig Hagan (Paula) of Taylorville, IL; daughter, Tricia Laager of Athens, IL; several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Wayne F. Helton, 86, of Strasburg, IL *(March 16, 1936 – December 6, 2022)*

Wayne was the son of Delbert L. and Laveta P. (Richards) Helton. He graduated from Stewardson-Strasburg High School in the Class of 1954. Wayne married Sharon Kay Barkhurst on August 12, 1957. Wayne was a farmer in the Lakewood and Strasburg areas and previously owned and operated Helton Body Shop in Strasburg. He was a member of the Strasburg United Methodist Church and a former member of the Strasburg Lions Club and Strasburg Volunteer Fire Department.



Wayne is survived by his wife, Sharon; sons, James W. Helton (Marilyn) of Glen Carbon, IL and John D. Helton (Pam) of Strasburg, IL; daughter, Jacque K. Frey (Jeff) of Effingham, IL; nephew, Randy Randol of Taylorville, IL; 11 grandchildren; and 11 great grandchildren.

Larry E. Lenz, 84, Strasburg, IL *(August 26, 1938 – December 9, 2022)*

Larry was born the son of Erwin and Joy Rincker Lenz, and the grandson of William and Caroline Diepholz Lenz and David and Anna Pfeiffer Rincker. He graduated from Stewardson-Strasburg High School with the Class of 1956, where he was active in FFA and 4-H. He married Patsy Gervaise Kessler on July 30, 1961 at First Methodist Church in Stewardson, IL.



Larry was a lifetime farmer and rancher, raising Angus Cattle. He volunteered much of his time to better his church and community. He was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Strasburg, where he served as elder, Sunday school teacher, and treasurer of the cemetery board. He was a longtime member of the Farm Bureau and also served on the Shelby County Hospital Board, the Interstate Livestock Board, and the Shelby County Board for 35 years. Larry was a Richland Township Trustee and a former member of the Strasburg Lions Club, where he served as president.

Left to cherish his memories are his wife of 61 years, Patsy Kessler Lenz; two children, Trena (Wayne) Hatcher of Williamsburg, VA, and Timothy (Delreen) Lenz of Strasburg, IL; his three grandsons, Caleb (Amy), Seth, and Ethan Hatcher of Virginia; three sisters, Margaret Swank, Arlene (Ferd) McCormick, and Cathy (David) Allen.

Strasburg Community Foundation - *Working For Generations To Come*

Formed in 2007, the Strasburg Community Foundation was under the leadership of Larry Lading until his passing in 2012.



Below is an excerpt from the 2012 year-end fundraising appeal letter:

You may have heard that our community is mourning the recent passing of Larry Lading. Larry was the Chairman of the Strasburg Foundation Board and his generosity and leadership will be greatly missed. His startup contribution was the spark plug for our fund.

We are asking for your help in keeping Larry's dream alive in Strasburg. Your generous gift to the SCFF goes towards both short-term and long-range goals of the village. Consider annual giving, gifts of property, commodities or estate planning options.

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.

Larry's goal was to build the permanent Foundation Fund to \$100,000 by 2016. Although we have fallen short of that goal, the Foundation has been able to award over \$31,500 in grants for village improvement projects. The Endowment Fund is a beneficial means to help the village make improvements. Let's keep working to make Larry's goal a reality.

Did you contribute to the Strasburg Community Foundation in 2022? 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 (Temporary Fund)."

Thank you for helping Strasburg to be Right! in the Middle of Everything!

2022 Foundation News

The Strasburg permanent Endowment Fund has grown to over \$65,000.

Since 2012, the Foundation has been able to award over \$31,500 in grants for improvements to the village.



**PO Box 385
Strasburg, IL 62465**