

GNOME NEWS



GNOME NEWS IS GOOD NEWS!

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Important Dates

Mon., Feb. 16 – Stew-Stras FFA Annual Community Breakfast, 6-9 a.m. High School Cafeteria. P. 4

Sat., Feb. 21 – Strasburg Lions Breakfast, 6:30-10 a.m., Comm Ctr., P. 4

Wed., Feb. 25 – Seasoned Citizens meet. Noon. Community Ctr. P. 5

Tue., Mar. 17 – Primary Elections

Fri., Mar. 20 – Lions Fish Fry, 4:30-7 p.m. Community Ctr. P. 4

Tue., Mar. 24 – SCAN Quarterly Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Comm Ctr.

Wed., Mar. 25 – Seasoned Citizens meet. Noon. Community Ctr.

Tue., Mar. 31 – Foundation Grants due. Page 6

Sat., Apr. 4 - ALA Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. Park. P. 4

Subscribe to the bi-monthly Gnome News for \$12 and receive a color copy newsletter in the mail six times a year.

Printed Color Gnome News copies available for \$1 at Shelby County State Bank and Village Office.

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

Baby it's cold outside, so stay in like I did!

I hope our worst weather is behind us. When we have snow, some folks in town are not able to clean their drives. If there is anyone with equipment who would like to make a little cash, let the village know, so when we get calls, we can give those people your contact information. Thanks.

I've been keeping an eye on the pavilion work and it has come right along, but it is now at a stop till weather improves. The outside is complete and I think electrical is complete. I will keep you updated. Our first softball tournament is scheduled for March, so we are hoping we hit that deadline.

Stay warm. Only around 43 days until spring. (March 20)

Remember to
Keep Strasburg Right! In the Middle of Everything!

Christmas Light Up Strasburg Contest winners

The 2025 Strasburg Christmas Light Contest was again a success. Winners were:

Large Displays - 1st Place Joe & Sheila Stratton, 308 N Chestnut; 2nd Place James Noffke, 304 Locust Street; 3rd Place Jared & Caralea Smith, 2 York Drive.

Small Displays – 1st Place Tammy Sentel, 208 W N 1st; 2nd Place Stephen & Beka Hoene, 305 Spruce; 3rd Place Jaden Miller, 101 S 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.”



Cinda Held

Left-Stratton home

Go to the Strasburg Facebook page to see more winner pictures.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/strasburgil>

Celebrating 70 Years with the Strasburg Lions Club



Lions Clubs International is an international service organization, currently headquartered in Oak Brook, Illinois. As of January 2020, it had over 46,000 local clubs and more than 1.4 million members (including the youth wing Leo) in more than 200 geographic areas around the world.

February 21, 2026 will mark the 70th anniversary of Strasburg Lions Club. We salute and thank them for serving our community for this many years. Below are articles about the Lions written by Lions 2025-26 President Dean Keller, Lion Jim Weiss, Lion Mitch Stewart, and Lion Gary Kull.

How I became a Lion/What the Strasburg Lions do *By Dean Keller, Lions Club President 2025-26*

I was recruited to be a Lion by Past District Governor Jim Strange when he was wanting to restart the Effingham Club (2010 – 2016). We soon needed a President so I was elected. Later Jim needed a 1st Vice District Governor. I agreed to do that job also. I was the District Governor (then 1-E) from July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013.

Having a club in Effingham was an issue, we had to compete with Rotary and getting members was very difficult. Our club closed. I then transferred my membership to Strasburg (2017) after a conversation with Jim Weiss. I have been the club tail twister and vice president, and I am president this year. My father, grandfather, and uncle (Ivan Keller, Walter (Slats) Keller and Don Keller) were all charter members of the Strasburg Lions Club.



The Strasburg Lions Club was chartered on February 21, 1956, so this month will mark our 70th year.

The current club officers are:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Dean Keller – President | Mary Tabbert - 1st Vice President |
| Nathan Doty - 2nd Vice President | Diane Jack - 3rd Vice President |
| Jane Giertz – Secretary | Otto Rincker - Treasurer |



Our club has 33 members. We yearly host fund raisers: Pancake breakfast, fish fry, chicken fry, and homecoming. We donate thousands of dollars yearly to various charities other than Lions and individuals in need. We support softball programs in the village, athletic programs in the school district, Boy Scouts, the high school LEO club, sponsor Santa Claus, provide scholarships for high school seniors, deliver fruit baskets, organize a community wide wiener roast in the fall, and the list goes on.

Our dues are \$60 per year per individual for all the work you wish to do. We are a service-oriented club. Our motto is “We serve!”

The club is proud to have three past District Governors as members, including John Wittenberg, Jim Weiss and Dean Keller, and also Jane Giertz, who served as District Secretary.



Ball Diamond Updates *by Mitch Stewart*

Thanks to many local supporters the Lions Club has secured the funds needed to replace the fence at the ballpark. The new fence will be black commercial grade and will include fenced off dugouts. We are hoping to pour concrete in the dugouts and put a roof over them this spring. The fence is expected to be completed in late February.

The History of LEOs by Lion Jim Weiss

What are LEOS? Lions Club Leos are members of the **Leo Club**, a youth organization of **Lions Clubs International**. The Term “LEO” stands for **Leadership, Experience and Opportunity**.

How LEOs began:

Coach Jim Graver started the ball rolling in 1957. He was the baseball coach at Abington High School, in Pennsylvania. He was also an active member of the Glenside Lions Club. With the help from fellow Lion William Ernst, the first LEO club was chartered on December 5th, 1957. As the first LEO club, “Abington HS LEO Club” they created the acronym: Leadership / Equality / Opportunity. Later the term “Equality” was changed to “Experience”.



In October 1967, the Board of Directors of the Lions Clubs International (LCI) adopted the LEO Program as an official program of the association. Community service was and is the cornerstone of the program, fostering a lifetime commitment to helping others. The LEO Club objective is: “to provide the youth of the world with the opportunity for the development and contribution, individually and collectively, as responsible members of the local, national, and international community”.



How it began in Strasburg:

The idea of forming a LEO Club began in 2014 by a couple of Strasburg Lions. They started trying to gather the required 20 new members, which was the requirement by Lions Clubs International to Charter a new club. They managed to convince 15 Stew-Stras High School students to join. After contacting LCI and requesting a Charter with only 15 new members, in 2015 LCI granted the Strasburg Lions “LEO” Club with a Charter. In January of 2015 the Club had a Charter night event, with parents, an International Director, President of the Lions of Illinois Foundation, three District Governors (past and present) and many Strasburg Lions in attendance.

From that meager beginning, with fifteen students willing to join something that they had no idea what they were getting into, the Club has grown to as many as 40+ members with today’s members being 32 students. Throughout the years, the Club has been involved in many activities. Pictured below are just a few Leos doing service projects.



Strasburg Lions – Greatest Achievement by Gary Kull

When asked - What is the major accomplishment of the Strasburg Lions Club over the last 70 years?, Lion Gary Kull (Lion member 45 years) responded, “No one thing stands out to me, except the **overall consistency** of serving the community year after year. For example, I cannot remember (even before I became a Lion) a time when there wasn’t a Lions Chicken Fry or an annual Strasburg Homecoming celebration. The club has a established several long-time traditions that folks can count on.”

Sponsored by the Strasburg American Legion Auxiliary

Easter Egg Hunt

Ages Toddlers Through 3rd Grade

When: Saturday, April 4th at 10AM
Where: Strasburg Park

*In case of rain hunt will take place at the Strasburg Community Center
 & Easter Bunny will be available for pictures




Celebrating 75 Years

Stewardson-Strasburg FFA
 presents

ANNUAL COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026
 6:00-9:00 AM

Stewardson-Strasburg Cafeteria

We will serve scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, and biscuits & gravy!

Free Will Donation
 All proceeds will go toward assisting members attend various FFA contests and leadership activities throughout the year

STRASBURG LIONS CLUB PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST





ALL YOU CAN EAT!

FEBRUARY 21

6:30AM - 10:00 AM
 STRASBURG COMMUNITY CENTER

Menu: AYCE pancakes, sausage, applesauce, drinks, and biscuits and gravy (not AYCE)

NEW Local in town delivery available. Text 217-690-8473 to have your order delivered!

CASH DONATION

Proceeds will go to fund community projects and to help the visually and hearing impaired. Your attendance is appreciated!

STRASBURG LIONS CLUB FISH FRY

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026
 4:30 P.M - 7:00 P.M.
 STRASBURG COMMUNITY CENTER





Adults: \$15
 Menu includes: AYCE fish, scalloped potatoes, coleslaw, baked beans, and applesauce

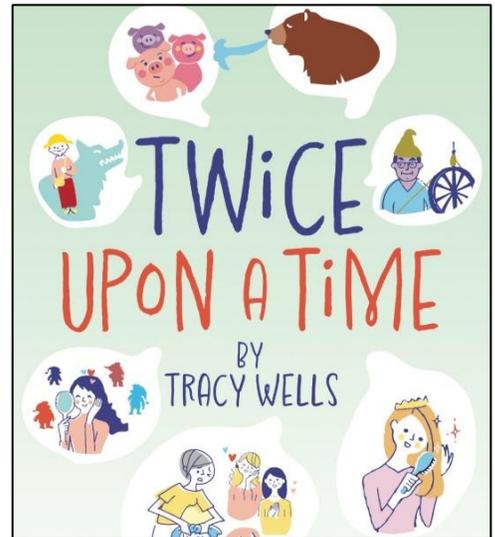
Children (12 and under): \$5
 Fish or hot dog, chips, and applesauce

Proceeds will go to fund community projects and to help the visually and hearing impaired. Your attendance is appreciated!

SSHS Drama Club play performance in March

The Stew-Stras HS Drama Club will present "Twice Upon A Time" on Friday, March 6th. There will be both a morning and an evening show with times to be announced later.

Cast members include: Brinlie Durbin, Zach Shelton, Tabitha Weaver, Jillian Porter, Lydia Weaver, Jacob Vonderheide, Kariann Radar, Meredith Daily, Alyssa Zacha, Gabby Cushman, Shae Conder, Abree Zalman, Maddie Clark, Ty Smith, Grace Figgins, Isaac Pruemmer, Mason Manhart, Eli Jones, Kendra Hayes, Tyler Vonderheide, Loreli McCormick, Rosalyn Reel, Olivia Vonderheide, Aubree Antrim, Kierra Mueller, Joseph Hampton, Claire VonBehrens, Luna Sandberg, Quentin Hatfill, and Rachel Weaver. The play is under the direction of Sara Long and Drew Hansen. Student Director is Maddie Beitz and Sound Assistant is Lucas Bierman.



Miss Shelby County, a Top 16 Finalist at state pageant

Miss Shelby County, Allison Worman, competed in the Illinois County Fair Queen Pageant, held Jan. 15-18 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield. Allison finished as a Top 16 Finalist at the pageant, held in conjunction with the 115th Annual meeting of the Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs.

There were 75 county fair queens competing. The pageant included a personal interview, evening gown competition, swimsuit competition, and 1-minute speeches.

Allison is the daughter of Doug and Angie Worman of Sigel. Allison is 21 years old and is a junior Elementary Education Major at Eastern Illinois University.



Miss Shelby Co. Allison Worman



Strasburg Seasoned Citizens meet in January

The Strasburg Seasoned Citizens met January 28 for a noon potluck at the Strasburg Community Center. It was a small group, but a great selection of food for lunch! Village Clerk Linda reminded the group of upcoming events. Happy Birthday was sung to member Larry Giertz for his Jan. 30 birthday. The group will meet Feb. 25 at noon for a Soup Luncheon. Chicken Noodle and Chili soups will be provided by Jane G. and Janice W. All others may bring a dish to share. Anyone age 55+ is invited to join in the fun!

Strasburg Foundation Grants Available

Grant applications will be accepted by the Strasburg Foundation Board of Directors from **Jan. 1-Mar. 31, 2026**. Projects will be funded for one year. The Board will make annual grants to groups or individuals who use their projects to enhance the quality of life for citizens of the community. Only 62465 zip code applicants will be considered. Contact a Foundation Board member with questions. Members include Justin Krile, Tim Lenz, Debbie Luce, Melissa Luce, Jodie Quast and Mitch Stewart. Applications may be picked up at the village office.

~We Remember~

Kenton Ray Augenstein, 83, of Strasburg, IL. **June 2, 1942-January 1, 2026**

Kenton was born on June 2, 1942, to Charles and Geraldine (Fouste) Augenstein. He graduated from Stewardson-Strasburg High School and went on to attend Sparks Business College and graduated with a degree in business. Kenton joined the Army after high school where he was a locomotive operator.

On January 17, 1965, Kenton married the love of his life, Evelyn Louthan. Together they built a life filled with love, faith, and family just shy of 60 years of marriage before Evelyn's passing in 2024.

Kenton retired from the State of Illinois Department of Transportation in 2002 with 20 years of service. After retirement, Kenton owned and operated Augenstein Auto Transport. In his earlier years, he wore many different hats. He worked for York Bin Company, Anaconda Manufacturing Company, F.S. Elevator, and owned and operated Augenstein Custom Spraying. Kenton was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Stewardson. He was involved in many organizations including the American Legion Post #289 and VFW Post #4829.

Kenton is survived by his daughter, Kathy (Wally) Frost of Strasburg; son, Brad (Kristie) Augenstein of Strasburg; five grandchildren, Charles (Trey) Frost, Allie Nixon, Taylor (Kelsey) Frost, Brittani (Dalton) Mette, Kourtni (Taylor) Kerner, and Gage Augenstein; ten great grandchildren, Brinley, Blake, Eva, Emma, Rowan and Kenton Frost, Aryian Helregel, Eila and Kal Kerner, Harper Mette and Baby Frost due in May 2026.

**Rosemary E. Schlechte**, 93, of Strasburg, IL. **January 10, 1933 — January 11, 2026**

Rosemary was born on January 10, 1933, in Windsor, IL, the daughter of Orvel Christian "Pete" and Clara Elnora (Robison) Schultz. She graduated from Stewardson-Strasburg High School in the Class of 1951. Rosemary began working at Illinois Consolidated Telephone Company and then later for Kuehne Manufacturing both in Mattoon, IL. She married George Harrison Schlechte on March 17, 1957.

Rosemary was a vital part of the family farming operation and her husband's construction business. She was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Strasburg, where she was an active member of the Lutheran Ladies of Strasburg. Rosemary was an avid fan of the Illini, Los Angeles Dodgers, SS Comets and WSS Hatchets. She loved watching the activities of her sons and grandchildren and was a lifetime member of the WSS Sportsbackers.

She is survived by her sons, Gerry Schlechte and wife Dawn of Strasburg, IL, and Bob Schlechte and wife Ronda of Strasburg, IL; brothers, Orvel Dean Schultz of Strasburg, IL; sisters, Jeanne Allen of Mattoon, IL and Shirley Anderson (Ted) of Sullivan; sister-in-law, Pam Schultz of Indian Lake, FL; step-grandson, Steven Polk and wife Megan of Mattoon, IL; grandchildren, Whitney Furr (Blake) of Shelbyville, IL, Becca Schlechte of Bloomington, IL, Megan Schlechte of Effingham, IL, and Anna Schlechte of Strasburg, IL; step-great grandchildren, Waylon Schultz of Reno, NV, and Charlotte Schultz and Makenna Polk both of Mattoon, IL; great grandchild Furr on the way; and several nieces and nephews.

**William Curtis "Bill" Orr**, 82, of Strasburg, IL, formerly of Hanna City, IL. **September 29, 1943 — January 18, 2026**

Mr. Orr was born on September 29, 1943, in Kewanee, IL, the son of William D. and Evelyn (Swearingen) Orr. He worked in the ramp service department at Ozark and TWA Airlines at Peoria International Airport, from 1966-1996. Bill was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Strasburg, IL. He was an accomplished painting artist and enjoyed woodworking, fishing, and mowing his lawn. He married Linda Rincker on October 1, 1967.

He is survived by his wife, Linda; daughter, Amy (Orr) Edwards and husband Matt, Luke Edwards, and Maggie Edwards (Bloomington, IL); daughter, Susan (Orr) Smith and husband Eric, Jeff Smith, Tim Smith, Scott Smith (Mercy), and Christy Smith (Saginaw, MI); son, William J. Orr and wife Melissa, Joe, David, Matt and Will Orr (St. Charles, MO); son, Michael Orr (Strasburg, IL); mother-in-law, Mildred Rincker (Neoga, IL); and several nieces and nephews.



Updated 2/5/2026

2026 Strasburg Events & Celebrations
 Hosted by Village of Strasburg and non-profit organizations

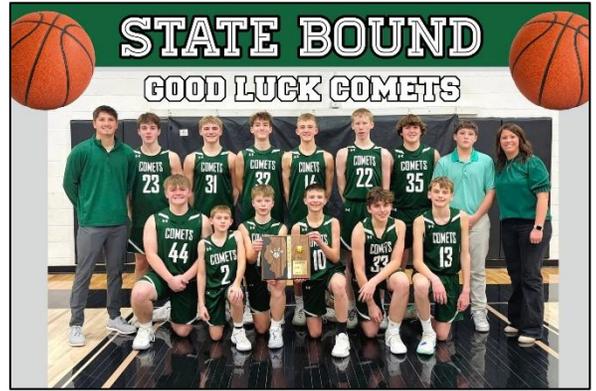
Date	Event
Jan. 28	Seasoned Citizens-Age 55+. Noon potluck. Community Center.
Feb. 4	SCAN Quarterly Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Community Center.
Feb. 21	Lions Club Breakfast. Pancakes, Sausage, Biscuits, Gravy, Applesauce. 6:30-10 a.m. Comm. Center.
Feb. 25	Seasoned Citizens-Age 55+. Noon- Soup Luncheon. Soups provided. Community Center.
Mar. 17	Illinois Primary Elections
Mar. 20	Lions Fish Fry. 4:30-7 p.m. Community Center.
Mar. 24	SCAN Quarterly Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Community Center.
Mar. 25	Seasoned Citizens. Noon. Community Center.
Apr. 4	Easter Egg Hunt. 10 a.m. Park(weather permitting) or Com. Ctr. American Legion Auxiliary.
Apr. 29	Seasoned Citizens. Noon. Community Center.
May 2	Main Street Makeover. 8-11 a.m. Volunteers will spruce up park and main street. SCAN.
May 22, 23	Poppy Days. American Legion Auxiliary.
May 23	Village Wide Rummage Sales. 7 a.m. Hot Breakfast served by SCAN on Commercial Street.
May 25	Memorial Day Service at Veterans Memorial. 11 a.m. Program Strasburg Lions LEO Club. Meal at the Park.
May 27	Seasoned Citizens. Noon. Community Center.
Jun. 6	Lions Club Chicken Fry. 4-7 p.m. Park.
Jun. 14	Flag disposal ceremony at Strasburg. Strasburg & Windsor American Legion Posts.
Jun. TBD	Berries & Burgers. Porkburgers & fresh strawberry shortcake. 4-6 p.m. Village Park. SCAN.
Jun. 22-26	St. Paul's & Grace Vacation Bible School. 9-11:30 a.m. St. Paul's Lutheran Church.
Jun. 23	SCAN Quarterly Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Community Center.
Jun. 24	Seasoned Citizens. Noon. Community Center.
Jul. 10-11	Lions Club Homecoming Tractor Pull/Sandwiches. Park.
Jul. 29	Seasoned Citizens. Noon. Community Center.
Aug. 26	Seasoned Citizens. Noon. Community Center.
Sept. 5	Fall Village Wide Rummage Sales. Hot Breakfast served by SCAN on Commercial Street.
Sept. 18	Community Wiener Roast & Volunteer of the Year awarded. 6 p.m. Park. Lions & Village
Sept. 22	SCAN Quarterly Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Community Center.
Sept. 30	Seasoned Citizens. Noon. Community Center.
Oct. 28	Seasoned Citizens. Noon. Community Center.
Oct. 30	Halloween Soup Supper, Parade, Costumes, Cake Walk. Com. Ctr. American Legion & ALA
Nov. 1 (TBD)	American Legion Christmas Auction. 1 p.m. Community Center.
Nov. 3	US General Election
Nov. 7	Santa Brigade Breakfast (6 a.m.) & Christmas Market (7 a.m.). St. Paul's Social Hall & Gym. SCAN.
Nov. 18	Seasoned Citizens. Noon. Community Center.
Dec. 5	Christmas in the 'Burg.
Dec. 6 (TBD)	American Legion Christmas Auction. 1 p.m. Community Center.
Dec. 11-12	Christmas Store/Cookie Walk. Community Center. American Legion Auxiliary.
Dec. 12	Santa comes to Community Center. 9:30-11 a.m. Lions Club.
Dec. 13	Annual Lutheran Churches Christmas Cantata.



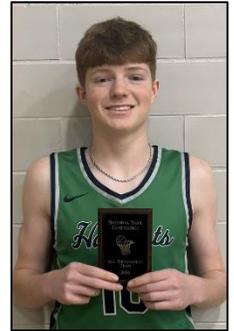
www.strasburgil.com
 Village Office 217.644.3007
 info@strasburgil.com
 Strasburg, IL: Right! in the Middle of Everything!

School News

Congratulations to the Stew-Stras 8th Grade Boys Basketball team. They are State Bound this weekend. The team will play East St. Louis Youngue at 11:30 a.m. on Sat., Feb. 7 at Kankakee Bishop McNamara. The Comets team won the IESA class 2A regional tournament at Stew-Stras School and the sectional game at North Clay School.



(Left) Stew-Stras school is proud to recognize scholar athletes, Brinlie Durbin and Tyler Vonderheide, who were nominated for the NTC Student Scholarship Award. Thank you for representing your school so well!



(Right) Congratulations to Wyatt Wetherell for being selected to the 2026 NTC All-Tournament High School Basketball Team!

STRASBURG
Right!  IN THE MIDDLE OF EVERYTHING
PO Box 385
Strasburg, IL 62465