

GNOME NEWS

GNOME NEWS IS GOOD NEWS!



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Important Dates

Jan. 12 – LYF Soup Luncheon, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. At Trinity Church, Stewardson. Page 6

Jan. 28 – SCAN Quarterly Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Community Center

Jan. 29 – Seasoned Citizens meet for lunch. Noon. Soup Luncheon. Community Ctr.

Feb. 22 - Lions Pancake/Sausage Breakfast, 6-10 a.m., Community Center

Feb. 23 – Donkey Basketball, Stew-Stras PTSA & FFA, 7-8:30 p.m., Stew-Stras Gym

Feb. 26 – Seasoned Citizens meet for lunch. Noon. Community Ctr.

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 Shelby County State Bank-Strasburg and Village Office for \$1.

Receive the GN electronically by sending your email address to the village office, info@strasburgil.com.

Village Board meets third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

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

Message from the Mayor

A reflection on 2024. For me, I have a pretty big memory gap in what happened, but I can tell you these things about the village.

1. While I was out of the office, village employees, Linda, Lisa, Ron and Todd did not skip a beat; they carried on. I am so thankful for them. When you see them let them know you appreciate their efforts. Our community is lucky to have their service.

2. We had a wonderful 150th celebration in June thanks to the efforts of Jodie Quast, Sue Bowers and the 150th committee. Good Food, Good Attendance and Good Memories. On to the next 150!

3. Park updates: The OSLAD grant has finally come to fruition. We are in the final stages of Phase 1. While the money didn't go as far as we anticipated, we plan to finish the projects in 2025. We will be taking bids to complete the pavilion in the near future. Thanks to Gary Kull for applying for a couple of new grants and donations from the American Legion Auxiliary and Garrett Moffett Country Financial. With the donations and grants, we will be able to start with around \$55,000 for the 2nd phase of the park project. On another note, we just received word that our sewer line from the school and the needed lagoon work will be fully funded through a principle forgiveness loan of \$2.3 million dollars. We are grateful to Milano and Grunloh for working so hard on this. That project will begin spring 2025.

4. Since it is the season. We congratulate our Christmas lights winners. The judges had a tough time choosing their favorite. I appreciate their time, effort and willingness to come visit Strasburg. See homes on P. 2.

1st place- Joe, Shelia and Kyle Stratton on E. N. 3rd

2nd place- Jared and Caralea Smith at York Acres

3rd place- Josh and Danielle Storm at York Acres

Best small Display- Michelle Hinterscher on E. N. 3rd

The New Year is a time to reflect on the memories of the past year, embrace its valuable lessons, and look forward to the opportunities ahead. As 2025 dawns, it brings fresh starts and endless possibilities, making it the perfect moment to reconnect with loved ones and share heartfelt messages of love, hope, and happiness.

Wishing each of you a blessed New Year -

From Cinda & Ed



Cinda Held

FROM THE VILLAGE: Reminders for Strasburg Residents

While we have accomplished much in 2024, of course there are some things we, as the community, need to work on. Practicing the items below will help the Village run more efficiently!

- Please do not flush wipes down the toilet (even if they say that they are flushable)
- Do not put grease down your drains. The cold weather causes a grease clog in the lift station that the pump and propellers can't handle.
- Make sure you control your pets. They are wonderful companions, but not everyone wants them roaming their yard.

WINNERS

The winners of Light up Strasburg are 1st place Joe and Sheila Stratton, 2nd place Jared and Caralea Smith, 3rd place co-winners Josh and Danielle Storm and Michelle Hinterscher. Thank you to these winners and for all who made Strasburg Light Up in 2024!



Park updates....

Tennis/pickleball court is ready for play

Pavilion Phase 1 is completed

Restrooms to be added in 2025



Donations to the Park Project

Strasburg American Legion Auxiliary President Sarah Wyckoff presenting a check to Village President Cinda Held in the amount of \$2,000 as a donation for the Park Renovation Project. This amount was the profit from the Auxiliary's Halloween soup supper.



Right: Garrett Moffett, Country Financial, presents a \$3,000 check to Village President Cinda Held for the park renovation project. Thank you, Garrett.





Veteran tree at the post office

Veterans missed Christmas with their families as they served our country. This Christmas, the Strasburg American Legion Auxiliary Unit #289 remembered and honored all our Veterans – past, present, those with us or in heaven – with an ornament tree at the Strasburg Post Office. For \$5, ornaments were made with the veteran’s name and branch of service. The tree and ornaments will be displayed each year and more ornaments can be added.

Winner -Lions Club Tree

4th Annual Showcase of Trees The winner (as determined by the number of votes [money] in their bucket) of the 2024 Show Case of Trees sponsored by Strasburg American Legion Auxiliary was the Lions Club Tree. Total monies received from all trees was \$122.07 that will be earmarked for scholarships. Thank you to the Lion's Club (Jane Giertz decorator), Small Tree (Kathie Helmuth), Hallmark Tree (Country Financial), the Spark Plug/Road tree (Porterformance Auto Care) and the “Dog did it” tree (Strasburg ALA Unit 289) for taking time to share their decorated trees with the community. If you have ideas for a tree, please consider decorating one next year. We also added wreaths this year to the show. Thank you to Jill Layton and Ballinger Hill Design. The winner of the wreath was Ballinger Hill Design (bottom wreath pic).



Several Stew-Stras high school and grade school students had their beautiful art work displayed at the Community Center during the Festival of Trees. We want to give shout out to art teacher Mr. Nick Stephens for sharing the students’ artwork. What a treat to be surrounded by their talent!



The IHSA is celebrating 50 years of Girls Volleyball State Series in 2024. To help commemorate the milestone, the IHSA used a committee of current and former high school volleyball coaches, administrators, and media members to select the Top 50 Volleyball Programs during the State Series era (1974 to 2024).

**Stewardson-Strasburg High School was selected
#16 of the Top 50 Volleyball Programs in the State Series from 1974-2024**

Follow this link to read more about the top 50 volleyball programs.

<https://www.ihsa.org/top50volleyball#3642272-programs-19--11>

#16

STEWARDSON-STRASBURG HIGH SCHOOL | STRASBURG

Regional Titles: 21

District Titles: 6

Sectional Titles: 13

State Final Trophies: 9

State Championship Appearances/Titles: 5/1

1984-A: IC Catholic 3, Stew-Stras 2	33-3
1985-A: Lisle 2, Stew-Stras 0	37-1
1986-A: Stew-Stras 2, Easton 0	33-0
2013-1A: Rockford Keith 2, Stew-Stras 0	28-13
2017-1A: Seymour 2, Stew-Stras 0*	34-7

(*) – in co-op with Windsor.

State Final Coaches: Jarielle Harner Winkleman (1978, 1979, 1984, 1985, 1986), Cathy Wenthe (1993, 1994, 1995), Ronda Schlechte (2013, 2017)

First Team All-State Players: 1984–Laura Bush; 1985–Laura Bush; 1986–Laura Bush; 1990–Cathy Koontz; 1994–Melissa Beitz, Tammy Vonderheide; 1995–Melissa Beitz, Tammy Vonderheide; 2017–Megan Schlechte.



Stewardson-Strasburg: Stewardson-Strasburg is a perfect example of a “volleyball school.” The Shelby County institution, which had 122 students in 2023, offers five sports for girls and five for boys. The volleyball program, however, has made 11 state trips while all the other sports combined have made three. Long known as the Comettes, Stew-Stras formed a sports co-op with Windsor in 2015 and became the Hatchets. During the first 21 years of the IHSA state volleyball series, it was the Comettes who made eight state trips, none better than the Class A state championship run of 1986. That 33-0 squad, the eighth chronologically among 11 unbeatens in state history, was coached by Jarielle Harner Winkleman. Her star was 5-foot-9 Laura Bush, who could touch 10 feet high with help from a 74-inch wingspan. Bush went on to play at Illinois after turning down offers from UCLA, Stanford, Ohio State, and Pacific. Bush helped Stew-Stras win 37 straight matches in 1985 and 36 straight across 1986 and 1987. Both streaks rank among the 15 longest in state history. In 1986, Bush hit a robust .558. “You won’t see a more dominating player than Laura Bush in Class A,” her coach said. “You might think she is compiling these statistics against weak opponents, but she does it at the same clip on the state level.” In the 1986 final, Stew-Stras downed Easton (enrollment 62), 15-7, 15-6, after winning its semifinal over Lisle, the team that had given the Comettes their only loss during the 37-1 state runner-up campaign of 1985. Winkleman’s other state runner-up was the 33-3 team of 1984 which lost the only five-set final in state history to Elmhurst Immaculate Conception. She also coached third-place teams in 1978 (32-2) and 1979 (33-2). After 14 years as coach, Winkleman stepped down prior to the 1988 season never having had a losing season en route to a 349-49 record. Sadly, she passed away in 2018 at age 65. Another successful volleyball era arrived with Coach Cathy Wenthe, who made three straight state

trips ending with a 37-4 third-place finish in 1995. Winning ways resumed in Class 1A not long after Ronda Schlechte became coach in 2011 as she guided teams to second in 2013 (28-13) and 2017 (34-7), and third in 2016 (35-6). In the 2013 final, the Comettes fell to Rockford Keith, 25-18, 25-17. In 2017, the victor was Payson Seymour, 25-12, 27-25. Schlechte's biggest star was her 5-11 daughter, Megan, who still holds the Class 1A state tournament record for kills in a match with 29 against Durand in the 2017 semifinals. Megan Schlechte went on to play for Lewis University.

Schlechte named Coach of the Year by volleyball coaches association

WSS volleyball coach Ronda Schlechte was named the Illinois Volleyball Coaches Association Coach of the Year!

Schlechte was recognized with this award at the fall state volleyball tournament finals at Illinois State University.

Schlechte began her coaching career in Junior High at Trinity Lutheran School, Stewardson, IL where she collected four State Championships and three 2nd Place finishes between the LSA and SIJHSAA seasons. During the 7 years of her reign, she ended with a 251-43 record.

She was named head coach of Stewardson-Strasburg High School in 2011. In 2013, she led her team to a 1A State Runner Up finish. In 2015, Stewardson-Strasburg High School joined Windsor High School for a sports co-op that became the Windsor/Stewardson-Strasburg (WSS) Hatchets. She went on to guide her team to back-to-back 1A State appearances in 2016 and 2017, placing 3rd and 2nd respectively.

In her 14 year career, she has accumulated 379 wins, 12 Regional Titles, 5 Sectional Titles, 3 Super Sectional Titles, and 3 State trophies. She was named NFHS 2017-18 State Coach of the Year and 2013, 2018, and 2019 Decatur Herald & Review Area Coach of the Year.

Schlechte comments on Stew-Stras being named #16 in the top 50 volleyball programs in the state during 1974-2024, "I was so excited to see we made it to #16. What an accomplishment! Stew-Stras has been known for its strong volleyball program since I can remember. I am proud to be part of that history by striving to keep the tradition alive. I am grateful to have been able to work with such amazing athletes over the past 14 years."



Three Generations of Volleyball at Stewardson-Strasburg High School

The IHSA first offered volleyball as a state competition in the 1974-75 season when Karen (Lading) Kull was a senior. She and 15 other girls were participants on the team with first year teacher Jarielle Harner as coach.

Karen's daughter, Shannon (Kull) Wascher, followed in her footsteps at Stew-Stras, participating for Coach Cathy Wenthe's teams from 1995-1998. Shannon's daughter, Zaida Wascher, (Karen's granddaughter) began her high school volleyball career in 2023, making it the first time in school history that three generations have competed in volleyball at Stew-Stras. Zaida's other grandmother, Beverly (Warner) Wascher was also a senior on the 74-75 Team.

The first team was called Comettes, which eventually evolved into Comets, and finally after a sports merger with Windson into Hatchets. Three generations of volleyball excellence in our communities deserves to be recognized and is a tribute to the many victories and dedicated coaches that it represents.



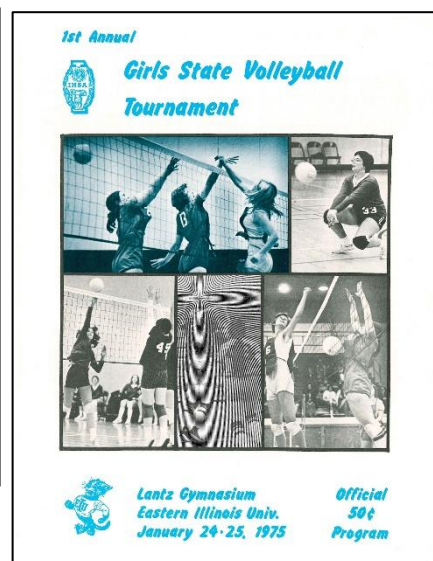
Fifty Years Later - Memories from the 1974-75 Volleyball Team

It was the 1970s and girls' sporting activities were limited to cheerleading in those days. Title IX was passed in 1972, setting the stage for girls' sports to be offered. "Power Volleyball" was introduced at Stew-Stras during the '74-'75 school year by Coach Jarielle Harner. Offering volleyball gave girls at Stew-Stras a chance to compete and participate in the comradery of organized sports.

IHSA volleyball was a one class system in 1974-75 and no NTC Tournament held that year. The Stew-Stras JV team finished with a record of 6-2. The varsity team was successful in post-season play, winning the District Tournament (now a Regional) at Windsor, defeating Mattoon High School. They advanced to the Sectional Tournament at Mattoon, defeating Tuscola in their first match before falling to Champaign Central in the championship match. The varsity finished their season with a record of 11-2.



Picture from 1975 Stew-Stras Comet Yearbook. Front Row: Coach Jarielle Harner, Sheryl Kirchofer, Diane Tabbert, Janice Ruff, Donna Moomaw, Jill Vogel, Ruth Widdersheim, Karen Lading. Back Row: Ruthann Schultz, Kate Baumgarten, Diane Adams, Treva Mathis, Dorene Friese, Elaine Carter, Bev Warner, Debbie Doehring, Perrie Sue Buesking. Team Manager, Margaret Widdersheim.



Memories of the 1st year from team members:

Elaine Carter Ohnesorge (Senior): I remember loving this sport and getting to play with friends. It also taught me teamwork and sportsmanship. Having fun was an added bonus! I think our record was amazing considering it was our first year and we had to learn the skills in such a short time. I'm proud that I played on our "74-75" Comettes team!

Beverly Warner Wascher (Senior): Memories include our uniforms, old boys' basketball jerseys over our white P.E. shirts. I don't imagine anyone had any idea that we would be successful. I also remember thinking that finally we were able to participate in a sport and not just sit on the sidelines cheering on the boys. It was a great time. We had no idea what was just beginning – a volleyball dynasty. Jarielle taught us and many more to come so much. She was an exceptional coach and person.

Karen Lading Kull (Senior): After having played backyard volleyball my entire life, it was very strange when our new PE teacher and volleyball coach taught us "power volleyball" and showed us how to bump the ball on our arms. We did so many drills before she would ever let us play the actual game. Once we got going, I lived, breathed and dreamed about volleyball. We had a great coach and I got to play with my friends. It doesn't get any better than that. I was proud of our team for beating Mattoon (a much larger school) and winning the District Tournament that first year! After our season ended, our team attended some of the state tournament games at EIU, which were being played in Lantz Gym. It was a one-class state system back then and the teams playing were large schools with really tall girls. They hit the ball really hard. I remember thinking "so that's what Coach wanted us to do"! We were so fortunate to have had a recent college graduate for a coach that first year. Coach Harner had played the sport at Greenville College and was a great athlete herself and person. We loved the game because of her. My only regret is that I was only able to play one year.

Donna Moomaw (Senior): Playing volleyball was so much fun! We were so fortunate to have Coach Harner come to us with her drive and passion to promote girls volleyball at Stew-Stras. The excitement and fun of playing with friends was the best. Even though the uniforms were less than awesome, I was still proud to wear it. I think I even put my uniform number on my license plate after that year. I remember the bus rides, the singing and laughing together. There may have been somber rides, but I don't remember any of those., only the good ones! I too remember watching the game at EIU and wishing we had seen the game played that way earlier in the season, oh what we might have done then. Comettes forever!

Janice Ruff Moomaw (Junior): I loved volleyball and playing with friends was the BEST! I'm so glad Miss Harner came to Stew-Stras. Think of all the fun and experiences we would have missed.

Diane Tabbert Jack (Junior): I fell in love with the sport of volleyball the second Miss Harner started teaching us the skills in PE class! Playing a sport was so much fun but also a lot of teamwork! It was an interesting season playing the larger schools. I was blessed with great teammates and a coach who wanted us girls to be successful on and off the court. When I came back home after college and had the opportunity to be Coach (Harner's) assistant, it was a great learning and giving back situation. I so enjoyed working with her and helping other girls improve their skills for the sport!

Jill Vogel (Junior): Jarielle had quite the task trying to get our crew to embrace the concept of power volleyball, but I think we did a pretty good job... she was a patient woman! She was just a kid herself. We were so lucky to have gotten such a great coach. She set the foundation for years and years of great volleyball teams at Stew-Stras, and it's pretty cool that we were all part of that foundation. I also remember going to Eastern to see some of the top state teams play. I thought those girls looked pretty silly standing up at the net with their hands raised when their team was serving...it all looked pretty foreign to us. I think my primary memory of playing was getting to play with good friends and having a boatload of fun. We couldn't get enough of volleyball. It was the first school sport that girls got to play at S-S and I feel very fortunate to have gotten to participate in the inaugural season.

Sheryl Kirchhofer (Sophomore): "Take a lesson" ...Miss Harner's catch phrase. That still pops into my mind now and again while maneuvering through life. (Editor's note: No one else can remember her saying this. Could be most of us weren't paying attention.)



2024 Sectional Champs. Front row, left to right: Kenzie Thompson, Avery Starwalt, Alaira Friese, Kinley Quast, Grace Carroll, and Zaida Wascher. Back row: Coaches Tammy Manhart, Courtney Wittenberg and Megan Schlechte, Maddie Beitz, Samatha Hayes, Ellie Wittenberg, Mya Friese, Brooke Schumacher, Colby McCormick, Brinlie Durbin, and coaches Ronda Schlechte and Ainslie Eident.

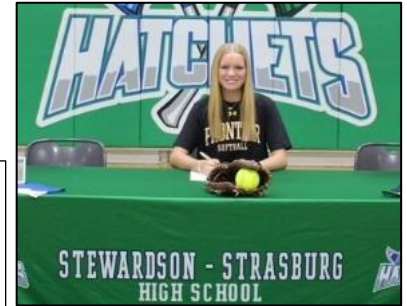
WSS falls to Cisna Park in the Supersectional

The Hatchets advanced this season to the top 8 teams in class 1A volleyball after defeating LeRoy and Heyworth teams to win the Tuscola Sectional. Their Hatchets saw their season end November 11, 2024 with a loss to Cisna Park 25-23 and 25-23. The Hatchets achieved a season record of 31-9. The Hatchets will miss their six graduating seniors next year. Graduating are: Kinley Quast, Grace Carroll, Samantha Hayes, Avery Starwalt, Ellie Wittenberg, and Alaira Friese.



(Left) Senior Kinley Quast signs to play college volleyball at SIU-Edwardsville after graduation.

(Right) Senior Alaira Friese recently signed to continue her softball career at Frontier Community College.



Congratulations to senior Jackson Gurgel for reaching **1,000** points in his basketball career at Stew-Stras. Jackson achieved the milestone on Dec. 30, 2024, at the Tri-County Holiday Tournament.



Trinity Lutheran School wins 8th grade Lutheran Sport Association state tournament held in Springfield, Nov. 1-3.

Back row: Coaches Bridgitte Friese and Katie Durbin, Tatum Kaufman, Abree Zalman, Kalia Friese, Lydia Weaver, Alyssa Zacha, Reese Stigers, and Coach Tammy Manhart

Front row: Anna Zacha, Kessler King, Gia Bostedo, Maddy Manhart, Cora Reed, Gracyn Montgomery and Hayden Reed.



NTC Volleyball Honors

Kinley Quast was named Most Valuable Player of the Year

WSS Coach Rhonda Schlechte was named Coach of the Year

Trinity Cardinals

3rd/4th grade basketball team finished a successful season with every player's ability growing by leaps and bounds. Head Coach was Phil Manhart and Assistant Coach was Dusty Rincker.



The Lady Hatchets took home 1st place for the first time EVER at the Arthur Knights Classic in December.

Congratulations to Kendra Hayes, Samantha Hayes and Ellie Wittenberg on being named to the All-Tournament team!



(Left) The WSS Sportbackers raffle winner Cody Johnson had this to say about the Blues tickets that he won in December.

"It was an Awesome experience being that close to the ice and all of the action! We had the best time! Thank you!"



Congratulations to the 7th grade Stew-Stras Basketball Team – NTC Champs!

Strasburg Lions LEO Club accomplish many activities

On November 2nd, the Strasburg Lions LEO Club traveled to Mechanicsburg, Illinois to visit the Rochester Lions Club “Boo Crew” haunted house. Seventeen LEOs made the trip and luckily all returned. The LEOs had a great time traversing through the maze of scary people and animated creatures.



A special thanks to the Strasburg Lions for their donation to help fund the trip. Also thanks to a couple of moms (Ms. Ashley and Ms. Shae) that helped transport the LEOs. Also to Lion Mary who helps with the LEOs as an advisor. And last but not least, a special thanks to Roy Schmidt of Roy Schmidt Honda who let us use a van to transport the LEOs.



On Saturday, November 16, members on the Strasburg Lions “LEO” club spent the morning raking leaves for a few of the residents around town. They ended up raking a trailer full of leaves. After they were finished, we all went to Eddy’s and had lunch. The members that helped were: LEOs Melanie, Brook, Addi, Kennedy, Jilli, and Shae. The LEO with the leaf blower was our President James. Also a special thanks to Lion Dean Keller that brought his leaf blower and helped the LEOs. We also had a little bit of fun burying some in the raked leaves.



The Strasburg Lions LEO club recently presented Kristina Moore, Stew-Stras High School secretary, with a LEO shirt. She is a great help to the club, helping set up meetings, running down students, taking money for events, and putting up with Jim, our advisor. Thanks for all you do!

Pictured right making the presentation are: Claire Holland, Sophi Greuel, Kendra Hayes, Samatha Hayes, Secretary Kristina, Brinlie Durbin, McKenzi Vonderheide, James Porter, and Ellie Wittenberg.



The Strasburg Lions LEO Club served desserts at the fall SCAN Burrito meal held at the Strasburg Community building, to benefit the new park improvement. The LEO members made many different types of desserts that were sold at the meal. The LEOs decided to donate their profits from the sales back to SCAN for park improvements.

Pictured left are LEO Board members Sophi Greuel, Alaira Friese, Mya Friese, Ella Wittenberg, Samantha Hayes, SCAN member MaRanda McClain, James Porter, McKenzie

Vonderheide and Brinlie Durbin.

On Monday, October 28th the Strasburg Lions “LEO” Club participated in the local “Trunk or Treat” night held in the Stew-Stras High school parking lot. The students decided on “Pink Camo” and had the participants shoot at targets to determine how many treats they received. The younger goblins picked a duck out of the bucket to determine their prize. The LEOs treated an estimated 250 goblins.

The LEOs helping with the event were Callie Friese, Claire VonBehrens, Annabel Bridges, Kierra Mueller and Shae Conder.



LEOs who helped sponsor a pumpkin decorating contest in 3rd-5th grades at Stew-Stras grade school were: Leah Long, Calex Pieper, Samantha Hayes, Kennedy Kull, Aubree Antrim, Sophi Greuel, and McKenzi Vonderheide.

PROVIDING CHRISTMAS CHEER

The Shelby County State Bank – Strasburg provides a space in the lobby right before Christmas where patrons can come inside to enjoy a cookie and a cup of cheer. The Lutheran Ladies Aid of Strasburg supplied cookies and goodwill this year.



Stewardson-Strasburg schools ranked in top 10% in state

We remember Captain Kirk of the starship Enterprise declaring that the mission was “to boldly go where no man has gone before.” The Stewardson-Strasburg school district has accomplished that.

Illinois public schools have received their 2024 Illinois State Board of Education report cards which give an annual account of how each public school stands. The State Board considers several academic indicators including proficiency and growth in English Language Arts, Math and Science, as well as student absenteeism, and graduation rates.

Both the Stew-Stras high school and grade school have received the “Exemplary Status” on the State Board of Education’s Illinois Report Card, a feat that the district hasn’t achieved before. In order to be considered exemplary, schools need to be in the top 10% of schools in the state.

School enrollment has increased 14.5% in the past decade and now has 400 students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Along with career and technical education (CTE) and ag programs, Stew-Stras offers students the opportunity to earn 26 college credit hours of dual credit as well as other electives.



Stew-Stras
Superintendent Justin
Deters

Deters feels that everyone involved in the growth of local youth is part of the Stew-Stras Family. In a letter he posted on the school’s Facebook page he stated, “It take EVERYONE. From our teachers and staff that educate day in and day out, to high schoolers helping mentor our grade schoolers, to parents helping students instill strong educational values at home, to our bus drivers greeting students in the morning and say goodbye at the end of the day, to our community that supports programs and extra-curriculars, and the rest of the list of individuals that could continue on and on and on. I want to personally thank each and everyone of you for your valuable time for our students.”

Stew-Stras crowns Wittenberg, Gurgel, 2024 Homecoming royalty

Stewardson-Strasburg 2024 Homecoming Queen and King, Ellie Wittenberg and Jackson Gurgel, were crowned following the Dec. 13 varsity basketball game with Shelbyville. The Hatchets beat the Rams 58-56. The couple reigned over the Dec. 14 homecoming dance.

Ellie is the daughter of Barry and Courtney Wittenberg of Strasburg. Jackson is the son of Jonathan and Stephanie Gurgel of Shumway.



Seasoned Citizens plan soup extravaganza for January

Strasburg Seasoned Citizens (age 55+) met Nov. 27 with fall decorations and a delicious potluck meal. Pat S. won the door prize. Dwight L. led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and Larry G. gave the tip of the day.



The group did not meet in December. They will meet again **Wednesday, Jan. 29 at noon** at the Community Center for a soup extravaganza. Pat S. will bring chili soup, Pauline D. – vegetable soup, Jane G. – chicken noodle soup, Karen K.–sandwiches, Janice W–cheese & Fritos chips, and Dwight L.–crackers. We'll also be celebrating Larry Giertz' birthday! Bring a dish and plan to join us!

~ We Remember ~

Marcia K Krile, 71, of Strasburg, IL, passed away at 6:10 p.m. Thursday, October 24, 2024, at HSHS Good Shepherd Hospital, Shelbyville, IL.



Marcia was born on December 23, 1952, the daughter of Frederick K and Elsie “May” (Hubbart) Miller. She graduated from Shelbyville High School in the Class of 1971 and then attended Lake Land College in Mattoon in the Dental Assistant Program. Marcia began working as a secretary for Illinois Senators. She later worked for Cass’s Custard and the Timbers Restaurant both in Strasburg and CITGO in Stewardson, IL. Marcia served on the Strasburg Village Board of Trustees and was a former chairperson for Strasburg’s American Heart Association Bike-a-thon. Marcia was baptized and confirmed at the First Christian Church in Shelbyville, where she married Bruce L. Krile on October 2, 1981. Marcia and Bruce made their home in Strasburg, IL, and were members of Grace Lutheran Church. Marcia loved decorating for Christmas, her favorite time of the year!

Marcia is survived by her husband, Bruce; son, Justin Krile (Trisha Keith) of Strasburg, IL; Trisha’s son, Pierce Boyer; brother, John Miller (Sara) of Shelbyville, IL; and sister, Mary Ellen Martin (Michael) of Mattoon, IL.

Evelyn Augenstein, 81, of Strasburg, IL, passed away peacefully on Friday, December 27, 2024. She was born on June 16, 1943, to Howard and LaDon (Long) Louthan.

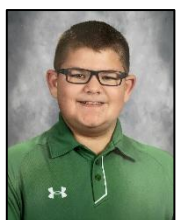


Evelyn graduated from Neoga High School and went on to attend Eastern Illinois University. On January 17, 1965, Evelyn married the love of her life, Kenton Augenstein. Together they built a life filled with love, faith, and family just shy of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Evelyn worked at 1st National Bank of Mattoon, Cumberland County State Bank in Neoga, Strasburg State Bank, and Shelby County State Bank during her career.

Evelyn was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Stewardson. She was involved in and held offices in multiple organizations including Stewardson-Strasburg School Board, American Business Women’s Association, Community Banker’s Association, American Legion Auxiliary Unit #289, and VFW Post #4829 Ladies Auxiliary.

Evelyn is survived by her loving husband, Kenton, who has been her caretaker for many years during her long battle with Alzheimer’s disease. Other survivors include 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, Kourtnei (Taylor) Kerner, and Gage Augenstein; eight great grandchildren, Brinley, Blake, Eva, Emma, Rowan and Kenton Frost, Eila Kerner, Harper Mette, and baby Kerner due in May 2025. Also surviving are her siblings, Jim (Janice) Louthan, Tom (April) Louthan, and Betty (Bill) Myers.



Kale Ervin Mueller, age 11, of Stewardson, IL (5/10/2013 – 12/18/2024)

We remember the life of Kale Mueller, a 6th grader at Stewardson-Strasburg School. He leaves behind parents, Ervin A. Mueller II and Brooke (Johnson) Mueller; siblings Tanner Price and Kierra Mueller; and grandparents Ron and Duckie Johnson. Kale was a member of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Effingham.

The **Strasburg Community Action Network** holds quarterly meetings in January, March, June and September. The first meeting for 2025 is **Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 6:30 p.m.** Join us as we plan events and activities for 2025 to help with improvements for the park and other ways to improve life in Strasburg. Be a part of it!



Stew-Stras Post Prom Committee

Cordially invites you to...

2025 Daddy Daughter Dance!

Join us for glow in the dark dancing, games & snacks!

❄️ **January 19, 2025** ❄️

2 PM-4 PM

Stew-Stras HS gymnasium

Tickets are \$25 per couple and \$5 for each additional date

Preschool to 4th grade girls are encouraged to attend

Photo booth pictures included in ticket price

Join us for LYF's

Soup Luncheon

JANUARY 12, 2025

11 AM-12:30 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.



**PO Box 385
Strasburg, IL 62465**