

# GNOME NEWS



GNOME NEWS IS GOOD NEWS!

info@strasburgil.com

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## Important Dates

Sat., Apr. 13 – Lions Club Cleanup Day. Also open to SCAN and Community volunteers. Meet at park at 9 a.m.

Sat., Apr. 20 – American Legion Auxiliary Egg Hunt, 10 a.m., registration at 9:45 a.m. at the park

Wed., Apr. 24 – SS Area Seasoned Citizens, noon

May 24 & 25 – American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Days

Sat., May 25 - Village Wide Rummage Sales

Thur., May 30 – Farmers Market Kickoff and Strawberry Shortcake and Porkburger meal by SCAN 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Sun., Jun. 2 - Lions Club Chicken Fry, 4 p.m., Village Park

Tue., Jun. 25 – SCAN Quarterly Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### Lions Club Cleanup Day at the Park

**Saturday, April 13**

**Also open to SCAN and Community volunteers**

**Meet at the park at 9 a.m.**

## Message from the Mayor



Well, Spring has sprung! Time to get out, pick up sticks and clean up yards. You can take sticks, leaves and cut up limbs out to the lagoon burn pile. PLEASE don't take garbage or electronics. They don't burn well.

The village employees are working on the roads and drainage within the village. This will take some time. Plans are to oil as many streets as we can in August.

I would like to WELCOME our new residents: Dwayne and Sue Bendorf, Wanda Preston, Paul Bridges, Zach and Leah Ritter, and Betty Vogel. We hope you enjoy the quiet atmosphere and we are happy for you to make Strasburg your Gnometown.

York Acres is growing as well. Two new homes are in the building stages. We welcome Josh, Danielle, and Grace Storm and Nancy Boyer to town. There are still 2 lots for sale. You can't beat the price of \$2500 for a lot with property tax rebates.

It is now time to renew your golf cart and ATV permits and to have your vehicles inspected. Make sure you have them properly equipped. The village office has sent out renewal reminders. If you are a new owner of a golf cart or ATV, check with the village office for an application.

The park season is upon us. It is a great place to have a picnic or take your kids to play. SCAN has plans to tear down the old wooden structure and to build a new one. The girls' softball program is beginning also and there are games throughout the week. Come watch the girls play. We want to thank the LEO club for planting new trees and the Tailtwisters 4-H club for doing some spring work.

Let's all have a fun and safe spring and summer...

**Keeping Strasburg Right! In the Middle of Everything!**

## Stew-Stras Seasoned Citizen's Special Valentine Pays a Visit in February

Twenty-two Stew-Stras Area Seasoned Citizens met on February 27, 2019 at the Strasburg Community Center. The meeting was opened by saying the Pledge to the Flag. Grace for the meal was given by Kay Condor. After a great meal and fellowship, the group got the chance to listen to Santa (Dave Storm) tell some of his exciting experiences while playing Santa. Lots of fun stories and lots of laughs were had by all. Dave serves on the Lake Land College Board and gave some updates regarding Lake Land College. He noted that 5,000 inmates take classes through the college.

March is the month we will be having "BAKED POTATOES". The group will bring different toppings for the potatoes and of course there will be other things and lots of desserts. The special treat for March is Rachel, a Comfort Dog from Charleston. Our group has grown to 35 and is open to anyone 55 or better. Please come and join us for a great couple of hours.

As usual, after the speaker, Village Clerk Linda Oakley tells the group about what is happening around the village and all upcoming events to take place. The SCAN membership will meet on Tuesday, March 26, Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> there will be dumpsters available for residents of Strasburg (in town only) for them to use to clean up their home/property. A list of what you can't dump will be posted. The dumpsters will have a watchman to collect your money and see that you don't dump the items on the "Do Not Dump" list.

Mike Reed gave the tip of the day. He said to dispose of old paint, you can put kitty litter in the cans and when it has dried, you can put it in the dumpsters for disposal.

*Submitted by Jane Giertz*

## Stew-Stras Seasoned Citizens meet Comfort Dog

The March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Stew-Stras Seasoned Citizens group was held at the Strasburg Community Building with 26 people attending the "Spudfeast". They enjoyed baked potatoes with a wide variety of toppings along with many salads and sweet treats.

Our special guest was Rachel, a Comfort Dog, and all were amazed by the calm relaxed character of this golden retriever. Paul Stranz and Chuck and Rhonda Lowell of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Charleston shared the history of the Lutheran Church Charities program of training these special dogs to comfort people in hospitals or nursing homes and in times of disasters, illness, despair or other stressful situations in life. There are 135 dogs nationwide that are trained to give comfort. The team members from Immanuel had to be approved and undergo specific training to be handlers for the dog. The dogs themselves complete 2000 hours of training. Chuck demonstrated many of the commands Rachel then obeyed; we were impressed by her obedience. When Rachel is "working" she wears a vest that says "Pet Me". This gave many of us a chance to pet her and appreciate the comfort she can offer to people.

Linda Oakley, village clerk, told us of the community events in the month of April. Election Day is April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6 am to 7 pm. SCAN is sponsoring a community Clean-Up Day on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Citizens of Strasburg can bring items they wish to dispose to the dumpsters in the park area. A list will be included in the April sewer bill of the items that cannot be accepted. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held Sat., April 20<sup>th</sup>, followed by a blood drive on Tues., April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The meal was preceded by the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer by Mike Reed. Joyce Weaver and Kay Adams gave gardening tips for the day and Marilyn Kessler won the door prize donated by Pauline Durbin. Our next meeting will be held Wed., April 24. All citizens over 55 are welcome to join us.

*Submitted by Joyce Weaver*





### Clay Tabbert, a Top Five Finalist in the state Dairy Placement Proficiency

Congratulations to Clay Tabbert, a senior at Stewardson-Strasburg High School and member of the Future Farmers of America (FFA). On February 7, 2019 Clay competed in Section 20 FFA Dairy Production Placement Proficiencies. He moved on to District IV competition.



On March 7th he competed at Sullivan High School in District IV Proficiency judging and advanced to State competition.

On March 23rd he went to the University of Illinois where he presented his FFA record book and was interviewed by a panel of judges. He was named one of the top 5 in state in Dairy Placement Proficiency.

Mrs Jennifer Barker is the Stewardson Strasburg FFA advisor. She does a great job helping the students prepare for Proficiency competition. Clay is the son of Dale and Mary Tabbert.

## New homes going up in York Acres

Work has begun for two new homes in York Acres. One for Josh & Danielle Storm and one for Nancy Boyer.



## Strasburg Farmers Market Kickoff



**Thursday, May 30**

**Strasburg Community Center**

Serving Homemade Strawberry Shortcake

with locally grown Strawberries,

Porkburgers and Hotdogs

4:30-6:30 p.m.

*Can't stay to eat? Grab it to go!*

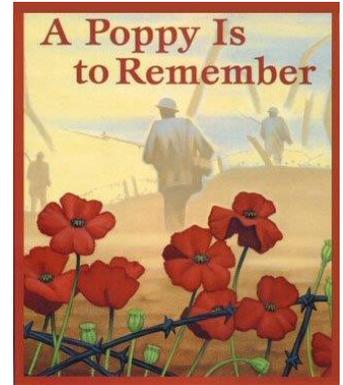


Farmers Market  
Strasburg Community Center  
Parking Lot  
Every Thursday Jun-Aug  
To reserve a booth at the Farmers  
Market call Patsy Lenz at  
217-644-2667

## **BRIEF STORY OF THE POPPY/POPPY DAY SCHEDULED**

The Poppy was first chosen as The American Legion's memorial flower at the 1921 National Convention and was worn in memory of the men who lost their lives in World War I.

The one bright color on the shell torn fields and hills of these war-torn areas was the little red Poppy. On the edges of the trenches, in the ragged shell holes, brave little Poppies grew and bloomed on the graves of those men buried in the sacred plots of French soil, which was Flanders Field. Remembrances of the cheery bright red flowers returned to America with our boys. And so, the Poppy became the symbol of the dead, their memorial flower. It became the sign that the high ideals for which these brave young men gave their lives, still live, and are honored.



All money taken in over expenses is returned to the Veterans and their families through the Auxiliary's program. Each year millions of Americans wear little red poppies in memory of those who have died in all wars and to assist in the rehabilitation of those Veterans who are now hospitalized suffering from wounds and illness. They are distributed by unpaid volunteers on Poppy Day. Please remember by wearing a Poppy!

The Strasburg American Legion Auxiliary Unit #289's Poppy Day will be  
Friday evening, May 24<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Volunteers will be located at the bank, post office and Marathon Station. Proceeds from Poppy Day have been used for the Honor Flight, Mattoon VA Outpatient Clinic, and Illiana VA (Danville).

Please help support our veterans.

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### **Village of Strasburg mentioned in Policy Profiles February 2019 issue, published by Center for Governmental Studies at Northern Illinois University**

The Village of Strasburg was recently honored in a speech given by Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton at the IIRA Rural Economic Development Conference in Springfield. The source of the words of praise were taken from a publication written by Dr. Norm Waltzer, senior research scholar at Northern Illinois University Center for Governmental Studies. The Policy Profiles report from February 2019 suggested ways that small rural communities can stem their population losses and improve their community's finances and lifestyle.

Lt. Gov. Stratton cited Strasburg's initiatives of gaining consensus, engaging volunteers, and celebrating successes. Gary Kull of Strasburg was a contributing author for the February report.

A copy of the article can be found at [https://www.cgs.niu.edu/Policy\\_Profiles/policy-profiles-feb-2019.pdf](https://www.cgs.niu.edu/Policy_Profiles/policy-profiles-feb-2019.pdf)

## ANNUAL LIONS CLUB CHICKEN FRY

4 p.m., Sunday, June 3

Strasburg Park

This annual affair will feature a menu of fried chicken, potato salad or chips, baked beans, slaw and bread and butter.

The Lions have held their chicken fry for many years and it has become a Strasburg tradition.

The chicken is fresh and hand breaded to make a tasty treat enjoyed by all. Come out to the park and enjoy a day of food, fun and fellowship.

Help the Lions raise funds to maintain the park and help with other worthy community causes.



## York Acres Subdivision

Phase 1 Residential Lots Available\*

\$2,500

Up to 50% back in tax abatements each year up to \$2,500

Village of Strasburg

Great Location \* Welcoming Community \* Wide Open Spaces

For information contact: Village Office 217-644-3007

Email: [info@strasburgil.com](mailto:info@strasburgil.com) Website: [www.strasburgil.com](http://www.strasburgil.com)



Build your dream home in York Acres!

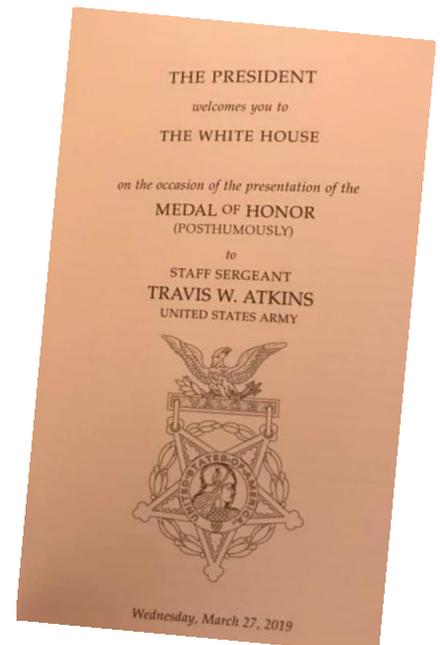
\*Limited # Lots Available  
Nearly 1/2 Acre

**STRASBURG**  
Right!  IN THE MIDDLE OF EVERYTHING

### Strasburg residents invited to White House



Strasburg villagers Phil and Brittany Kaufman were personally invited to the White House recently to take part in of Staff Sergeant Travis W. Atkins' Medal of Honor and Hall of Heroes ceremonies. Atkins was Phil's Squad Leader in the U.S. Army. Atkins was killed while shielding other soldiers from a suicide bomber in Iraq. Brittany stated the event was "bittersweet but the camaraderie was strong!" The couple is pictured here at the White House.



**Easter Egg Hunt**  
Sponsored by  
Strasburg American Legion Auxiliary Unit #289

**Saturday, April 20th**  
**Strasburg Park**  
(if rain, then at Strasburg Community Center)

Registration begins at 9:45 am  
Hunt begins at 10:00 am




Age Groups  
Toddler - 2 years of age  
3 - 4 years of age  
5 - 6 years of age  
7 - 8 years of age

**Strasburg**  
**Town Wide Rummage Sales**  
**and**  
**Flea Market at the Crib**

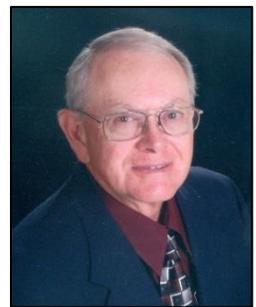
**Saturday, May 25**  
**Starting at 7 a.m.**

Discover the Garden Gnomes of Strasburg throughout the Village		<b>Large Flea Market along North Rt 32</b> Crafts * Antiques * Furniture * Fishing Tackle * Plants * Collectibles
Town maps available day of sale at Shelby County State Bank, Short Stop, flea market and the Strasburg Facebook page		
Information contact Patsy Lenz: 217.644.2667		
For more Strasburg festivals go to <a href="http://www.strasburgil.com">www.strasburgil.com</a>		
Also around town....  <b>Edwards Crafts</b> Customer Appreciation Days 308 N Pine St.		

**Remembering our Loved Ones**

Jerome Stremming (January 10, 1946 - February 25, 2019)

Jerome Melvin Stremming, 73, of Strasburg, was born on January 10, 1946 in Strasburg, IL, the son of Carl August and Etta Mildred (Reel) Stremming. He graduated from Stewardson/Strasburg High School in the Class of 1964. Jerome was inducted into the U. S. Army in December of 1965 and served in Germany during the Vietnam War. He attended Lake Land College in Mattoon, IL and Richland College in Decatur, IL. Jerome married Nancy Adeline Alwes on August 5, 1972. He worked as an electrician for Firestone in Decatur, IL until his retirement in 2001. Jerome also farmed in the Strasburg area for many years. He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Stewardson, IL and enjoyed history, genealogy, traveling and animals.



He is survived by his wife, Nancy; daughter, Leah Colleran (Will) of Palatine, IL; son, Eric Stremming (Nicki) of Evansville, IN; several grandchildren as well as brother Robert Stremming of Strasburg and sister Christine Brandt of Stewardson.

**Pastor LeRoy Tucker returns to Strasburg Baptist Church**

Strasburg Baptist Church at 109 N 1st St, welcomed Pastor LeRoy Tucker from Altamont back as pastor of the local Baptist Church in March. His next service will be April 14, Palm Sunday. Easter Sunday he will be preaching at Bible Grove Baptist where several members will be attending in Bible Grove. Then he returns to Strasburg at 9:30 AM each Sunday thereafter.



### Easter Services April 21

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 511 S. Walnut, Strasburg will have the following worship opportunities on Easter Sunday, April 21. Everyone is invited to attend any or all services. For more information call the office at 217-644-2661.

- 7 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast
- 9 a.m. Sunday School for children and adults
- 10 a.m. Worship Service

### SCAN meets to plan summer activities

The Strasburg Community Action Network met at for their March quarterly meeting to discuss upcoming goals and activities. Meeting highlights include:

- Dumpster Day is Saturday, April 6 from 8 a.m. to noon for village residents.
- Approved a \$50 donation to the Stew-Stras Post Prom.
- Approved funds to pour a concrete pad for Burn Out at the Annual Car Show on Oct. 12. The pad will be on village property at the park and has been approved by the village board.
- Approved tear down of old wooden playground structure at the park and approved funds for new tractor structures. Edwards Crafts will oversee the project. The structures were approved by the village board. Volunteers will be needed.
- Gary Kull gave a summary of the IIRA Rural Economic Development Conference that he attended in Springfield. The Village of Strasburg received positive comments from the Lt. Governor.
- Town wide rummage sales are set for Saturday, May 25.
- The Strasburg Farmer Market Kickoff is set for Thursday, May 30. The market will be free to vendors this year and will run through August every Thursday night from 4:30-6:00 p.m. at the Strasburg Community Center parking lot.
- On May 30, in conjunction with the Farmers Market Kickoff, SCAN will be serving pork burgers, hotdogs and strawberry shortcake from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Volunteers will be needed to help pick and cut strawberries, make shortcake and serve food. Contact Jodie Quast or Brittany Kaufman if you can help.
- Summer activities for the children are being planned.
- SCAN recently donated new trays to the community center.
- Officers were elected for the coming year. They are Justin Krile, President; Gary Kull, Vice President; Jane Giertz, Secretary and Brittany Kaufman, Treasurer.
- A fundraiser is being planned for the Strasburg Community Foundation.
- Action Team Leaders are being updated.



New playground equipment design

The next quarterly SCAN meeting will be Tuesday, June 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Everyone is invited to attend.

### Strasburg Short Stop & Subway

Serving Strasburg and the surrounding communities since 2009

Providing the following products for their customers...

Pizza, Gas, Milk, Bread, Buns, Eggs, Soda, Salads, Morgan Meats, Donuts, Gaming, ATM Machine, Subway Sandwiches, Breakfast, Bait, Fishing Tackle, Lotto, Sugar, Flour, Ice Cream, Beer, Cigarettes, Chips, and more!

***Thank you for investing in your community!***



## Strasburg ALA Americanism Essay Winners

The Americanism Essay Contest is sponsored by the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion. The theme this year for the Americanism Essay contest was, "What are my responsibilities as a U.S. Citizen?" The contest is open for grades 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. Each level of competition has monetary awards with the first place Department award for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade being a \$1200 scholarship.

The Strasburg American Legion Auxiliary Unit 289 has sponsored the Americanism Essay Contest for many years. Strasburg Unit 289 has always been very fortunate to have the cooperation and encouragement of the Stewardson-Strasburg Junior High and High School staff in supporting this essay contest.

A dinner for the essay winners was on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at the Strasburg Community Building.



Winners pictured:

Front Row: Abby Kelly, daughter of Duane and Angela Kelly, Maddie Rincker, daughter of Doug and Marla Rincker, Taylor Dasenbrock, daughter of Scott and Misty Dasenbrock,

Back Row: Maggie Kelly, daughter of Duane and Angela Kelly, Grace Rincker, daughter of Doug and Marla Rincker, Rachel Kessler, daughter of Mike Kessler and Alicia Kessler, Sierra Cameron, daughter of Julie Schultz, Jack Stremming, son of Doug and Amy Stremming. Not pictured: Laine Turner, Alex Dick, Dawnikah Kobielnik, and Kiefer Reel.