

GNOME NEWS



GNOME NEWS IS GOOD NEWS!

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Important Dates

Aug. 19. Volunteer of the Year nominations due to Village office. See Page 8.

Aug. 28. S-S Seasoned Citizens. Noon. Community Center.

Sept. 7. Fall Village-wide Rummage Sales.

Sept. 20. Community Wiener Roast & Volunteer of the Year Award. Park. Lions Club & Village Board.

Sept. 24. SCAN Quarterly Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Comm. Ctr.

Sept. 27. Burrito Fundraiser for park improvement. SCAN, Lions, LEOs, Village Board. 4-7 p.m. See Page 4.

Village of Strasburg
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Subscribe to the bi-monthly Gnome News for \$12/year. See the village clerk to sign up.

Copies of the Gnome News are available at Marathon, SCSB and Village Office for \$1.

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Message from the Mayor

Greetings Strasburg,

This is my 1st official article for the newsletter since March. I want to begin by Thanking everyone who helped with the 150th anniversary! If you did not get a 2024 Anniversary Book, there are still some left, which can be purchased at the village office. Thanks to everyone who attended the 150th celebration. It was a memorable weekend!

MAJOR CHANGES are taking place at the park. The OSLAD grant projects have begun. Those projects include the following: widening and resurfacing the walking path, resurfacing the tennis court, new basketball court surface, installing new playground equipment and a new pavilion by the ball diamond that will eventually include the concession stand, restrooms, and storage.

GRANT SHORTFALL: The OSLAD grant of \$318,000 requires matching village funds of \$318K. To date the board has \$180K (\$130K from fundraisers) set aside for the project. We will need to borrow money to come up with the balance of our \$318K match. The grant, (which included pre-covid bids) will be used for the walking path, tennis and basketball courts and playground equipment, but will not be enough to cover the full cost of the pavilion, with only a roof and a floor to be completed this year. Walls, lighting, restrooms, concession stand, kitchen and storage for the pavilion project will be completed as soon as money becomes available.

WORK HAS BEGUN: Restrooms, the concession stand, and the ball storage buildings were demolished in July. The village has contracted Grunloh Construction of Effingham to complete as much as the OSLAD grant will allow. Work is scheduled for July through September 2024.

FUNDRAISERS: To complete the park restrooms, concession stand and pavilion will require additional funding. We are researching and applying for other grants and we ask the community to be supportive of upcoming fundraisers. The first fundraiser will be a joint effort by SCAN, the Strasburg Lions and LEO Clubs and the Village Board. See Page 4 for details on the Burrito meal fundraiser.

Other announcements:

1st: Do not let your dogs roam the town off a leash. Dogs are the owners' responsibility. If animal control is called, you may have to pay the \$100 fee.

2nd: Thank you to Lisa Rincker for covering the office while Linda was off.

3rd: If you have not gotten your golf cart permit, do so soon while the weather is good. Vehicles that do not have a permit sticker are subject to penalty set by state law.



Cinda Held

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



Strasburg Community Action Network News

Join SCAN at their next quarterly meeting on Sept. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Strasburg Community Center

SCAN July Gnome Winner

The dogs will have a new addition to James Noffke's now that he is the July gnome winner.

James has lived in town since 1987 when he moved into the family home of his grandparents, Rufus and Maurine Kull. The home was built in 1907 and the Kulls purchased it a few decades later.

Many people from the Kull family resided in the home through the years - including Frank Kull and Gene and Joyce Kull.

"It's really quiet here and I like that a lot", said James from his backyard with his dog, Tucker and puppy, Sadie.

James graduated from Stew-Stras in 1974 and then Lake Land College. He studied elementary education at SUI-E and graduated there in 1979.

He accepted a teaching position at Sullivan where he worked for 34 years. He has two children, Elizabeth Clark (husband Matt), and Evan Noffke (wife Nathi) and two grandchildren.



Little Hatchets Dance class

Thank you to SCAN member, Lisa Shelton, for organizing a summer dance camp during June/July for those in grades 2-5. The students gave a performance at the final session. Thank you also to Rowyn Foreman for assisting.

L-R: Hadley Grove, Aubrey Holste, Ivey Smith, Lenyx Ogle, Rowyn Foreman, Roxanna Shelton, Emalyn Rincker, Aria Willenborg, and Reese Holste



Other SCAN Activities

- \$500 scholarship awarded to Stewardson-Strasburg high school graduate Morgan Mathis
- Flowers planted up town and work done on Commercial Street during Main Street Makeover in May. Volunteers continue to water the flowers weekly. Thank you!
- SCAN served homemade strawberry shortcake with locally picked strawberries at the Lions Club Chicken Fry in June.
- The Strasburg Foundation awarded a grant to Angie & Jason Edwards for their new food establishment, Eddy's Grab-n-Go, located at 308 Pine St., which will open August 1. Find Eddy's Grab-n-Go & Catering on FB to see their daily specials.
- SCAN provided the insurance for the men's basketball scrimmage teams this spring.
- SCAN will sponsor the Little Hatchets Soccer teams, Kindergarten-4th grade, which play Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29 at 1, 2 or 3 p.m. in the Strasburg Park.

- SCAN will sponsor the Hatchets Flag Football Teams for youth 5th-8th grade. They will play Sundays, Sept. 8-29 at 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. at the Stew-Stras school track field.
- SCAN will partner with the Lions Club and the Village Board for a park fundraiser on September 27. CASS' Burritos will be served.

WSS Sportsbackers accomplishments during 2024-2025

- Purchased over 25 different senior banners from 6 different sports.
- Donated money for meals for the state volleyball team.
- Hosted a 5th and 6th grade basketball tournament.
- Hosted a 6th grade volleyball tournament.
- Purchased hotel rooms for the golf team for sectionals.
- Purchased high school track equipment used for training.
- Advertised on state programs
- Supported the startup of an assistant golf coach.
- Purchased iPad for high school girls basketball team.
- Donated money to help purchase a shoot-a-way for the high school/junior high girls and boys basketball programs.
- Donated money to help supplement high school softball pullovers.



Thank you for all of your support this year! A membership drive for next school year is underway. Please continue to help support our athletes.

Strasburg Lions Club



Lion Otto received the Foundation Fellow Award at a recent Strasburg Lions Club meeting. Presenting the award was club secretary Diane Jack. This award highlights the time and dedication you give to our community. Thank you for your continued service, Lion Otto!

The Lions held a successful Chicken Fry in June. The Lions motto is "We Serve"!



Congratulations to Dave Boyer, who purchased the winning golf ball at the Lions Club Golf Ball Drop Fundraiser, held during the Strasburg 150th Celebration! Dave was a winner of \$5,000.

Holding the winning golf ball is Dave Boyer, Strasburg, along with his wife Diana

STRASBURG Fall Town Wide Rummage Sales

And Flea Market at the Farm
located along Rt 32, north edge of town

SATURDAY, SEPT. 7



The Original CASS' Burrito

Prepared by Carolyn Boldt

Friday, September 27

4-7 p.m.

Or until we run out
Strasburg Community Center
Dine In or Carry Out



Sponsored by: Village Board, SCAN, Strasburg Lions & LEO Clubs
Proceeds for the Village match required for Park Improvement Grant

Invitation from Village President, Cinda Held:

*"Come join us on September 27 for a CASS' Burrito Meal!
The village board is excited to be partnering with SCAN,
Strasburg Lions Club and Strasburg LEO Club to raise funds
so we may complete improvements at the park."*

**Watch in August for your opportunity to donate towards the
food/supplies needed for the Fundraiser**

Strasburg American Legion Auxiliary

Strasburg Unit 289 members Jill Layton, Sarah Wyckoff, and Linda Oakley attended the 83rd session of the American Legion Auxiliary ALA Illini Girls State at Charleston in June. Becca Layton, 2nd from left, was the Unit's delegate.



Left:

St. Paul's & Grace Lutheran Church Dual Parish Vacation Bible School 2024

Seventy-one children from preschool to 7th grade attended VBS 2024 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Strasburg from June 17-21.. The theme for the week was "Celebrate the Savior: Jesus Brings Us Joy". Nine adults attended an adult VBS class led by Rev. Kene Whybrew.

Children learned new songs, acted out Bible stories, made crafts, played games and ate snacks. The children sang at the closing program on June 21. The closing program can be watched on St. Paul's FB page.

Strasburg Celebrates 150 Years June 14-16, 2024

See more 150th photos in the next Gnome News Edition

A few Strasburg 150th History Books are still available at the Village Office for \$10. Call 217.644.2007 to reserve your copy.



Thank you to Jodie Quast and Sue Bowers for Co-Chairing this Wonderful Event!

Strasburg celebrated the town's Nonagenarians (90 year-olds in 2024) as Grand Marshals for the 150th Parade.

They included:

- Zona (Webner) Doty
- Lela (Doeding) Ostermeier
- Ramona (Schlechte) Radloff
- Beulah (Stremming) Ulmer
- Joyce (Weber) Ulmer
- Betty (Frede) Vogel
- Margaret (Staehli) Webner
- Frances Lee (Brandt) York
- Dwight Lading
- Noel Nippe
- Robert Stremming
- John Dale Webner



Above - Zona Doty



Joyce Ulmer



Robert Stremming

Below -

Frances York

Betty Vogel



Below -

Noel Nippe



Above -

**Margaret Webner
John Webner**



**Above -
Dwight Lading**



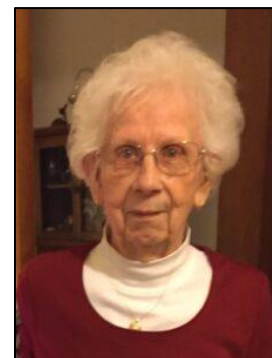
~We Remember~

Lela M. Ostermeier, 97, of Strasburg, IL, (*July 26, 1926- July 3, 2024*) passed away at Circle of Life in Bentonville, AR.

Lela was born in Strasburg, IL, the daughter of Edward William and Amelia Sophia (Vogel) Doeding. She graduated from Strasburg High School in the Class of 1944. Lela married Dwight E. Ostermeier on October 5, 1947. She worked for General Electric in their lightbulb factory in Mattoon, IL and later for a quilting company in Sullivan, IL. Lela was a member of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Strasburg, IL.

Lela is survived by her son, Mark E. Ostermeier (Barb) of Bella Vista, AR; two granddaughters, Jennifer Ostermeier of Independence, KY and Kimberly VanOosten (Chris) of Marion, OH; two great grandsons, Adam Ostermeier (Melissa) and Chase VanOosten; and three great great grandsons, Lucas, Liam and Teddy Ostermeier.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Dwight Ostermeier on June 6, 2015; and four sisters, Dorothy Juhnke, Helen Buesking, Retha Schwartz, and Juanita Weber.



Loss of 3 Local Teens leaves a void in the Hearts of the Strasburg and Stewardson Communities

The Communities of Strasburg and Stewardson were hit hard in July when a UTV collision with a grain hauler killed three Stewardson-Strasburg teens who would have been incoming freshman girls. The accident occurred at 5:30 p.m. on July 10 at the intersection of County Roads 1200 North and 1350 East, east of Strasburg.

The deceased are Karly Wetherell, 13, of Stewardson; Edie Wittenberg, 14, of Strasburg; and Sienna Bostedo, 14 of Mode.

A Prayer Vigil was held the evening of July 11 at the Stew-Stras HS gym and was organized and led by Stew-Stras superintendent Justin Deters, Rev. Kene Whybrew of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Strasburg, and Rev. David Weaver of Trinity Lutheran Church in Stewardson. The gym was completely full as both pastors read scripture and brought people together in prayer.

A visitation for Edie, Karly, and Sienna was held from 2-8 p.m. on Tuesday, July 16 in the Stewardson-Strasburg High School gym, with thousands of people lined up for hours to pay their respects and remember the three.

The outpouring of care and support for the families has continued for several weeks with fundraisers, gifts, food, yard signs, and bracelets. The three were teammates and friends who excelled in both athletics and scholastics. They had all professed their faith in God this spring during the rite of confirmation, Karly and Edie at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church and Sienna at Trinity Lutheran Church. Many stories and memories of these young ladies have been shared on Facebook by teachers, coaches, and friends of the family. We have all gotten to know even more how special these three were.



“We find comfort in knowing that our lives have been enriched by having shared their love.”
 ~Leo Buscaglia

“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”
 ~2 Corinthians 4:18

Memorial Information

- Karly Wetherell: Karly Wetherell Memorial Scholarship
- Edie Wittenberg: WSS Sportsbackers or St. Paul’s Lutheran Church of Strasburg
- Sienna Bostedo: Trinity Lutheran School in Stewardson

Karly Michelle Wetherell, 13, (July 28, 2010 – July 10, 2024) of Stewardson, IL

Karly was born on July 28, 2010, in Effingham, IL, the daughter of Luke Joshua and Lauren Michelle (Wildman) Wetherell. She was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Strasburg, Student Council, Honor Roll and Strasburg Taitwisters 4-H Club. She enjoyed hanging out with friends, goofing off with her brothers, playing volleyball, especially with her club Rapid Fire, basketball, track, softball, dancing, and telling jokes.

She is survived by her parents, Luke and Lauren Wetherell; brothers, Tyler, Dylan, and Wyatt Wetherell of Stewardson, IL; grandparents, Jeanne Wildman, Don and Tammy Wetherell; great grandparents, Delbert Foelsing, Lucille Wildman, Larry and Karen Reed; aunts and uncles, Nicole and Richard Clapp, Alecia and Colton Booher, Shalyn and Jacob Tabbert, Philip and Katherine Wetherell; and cousins, Maverick, Rhen, Riggs and Hayes Clapp, Weston, Lennon and Liam Booher, Blakely and Beau Tabbert, Bentley, Mason, Harper, and Jensen Wetherell. She was preceded in death by her grandpa, Mark Wildman.



Psalm 27:1 The Lord is my Light and my Salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Edie Jane Wittenberg, 14, (June 3, 2010 – July 10, 2024) of Strasburg, IL

Edie was born on June 3, 2010, in Mattoon, IL, the daughter of John Barry and Courtney Lyn (Hooten) Wittenberg. She was an active member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Strasburg, Rapid Fire volleyball, and Mattoon Pride softball but was also beyond excited to start her debut for the WSS Hatchets volleyball, softball, track, and basketball teams, alongside her sister and cousins. Edie was a driven, determined, ambitious soul with a contagious smile that lit up a room. She radiated a pure love for life, Jesus, family, and her friends. Edie always saw the good in everyone and every situation, had the most compassionate and humble heart, and touched the lives of everyone around her.



She is survived by her parents, Barry and Courtney; brothers, Jordan John Wittenberg and Austin James Wittenberg both of Strasburg, IL; sister, Ellie Lyn Wittenberg of Strasburg, IL; paternal grandparents, John and Judy Wittenberg of Strasburg, IL; maternal grandparents, Jim and Sally Hooten of Gays, IL; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her infant brother, Andrew Barry Wittenberg.

Keep moving mountains, Edie Jane. We will forever hold you in our hearts until we can hold you again in our arms.

Sienna Rae Bostedo, 14, (November 16, 2009 ~ July 11, 2024) of Mode, IL

Sienna was born November 16, 2009, in Aurora, to her loving parents, Charlie and Stacie Bostedo. Sienna was baptized into Christ on May 12, 2021, alongside her sister, Gia, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stewardson, with her cousins, Colin and Ella being her sponsors. She was confirmed into her Christian faith on May 5, 2024, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stewardson. Sienna was a 2024 graduate of Trinity Lutheran Grade School in Stewardson and was to be a freshman at Stewardson-Strasburg High School this fall.



Sienna was active in every sport possible keeping her parents busy chasing after her. Volleyball was her biggest love! Sienna's smile could light up a room. She loved a good blush and a summer tan.

Sienna is survived by her loving parents, Charlie and Stacie (Friese) Bostedo, and her loving little sister, Gianna, who will dearly miss her. Adoring grandparents: Dick and Maggie Bostedo of Westmont, and Ed and Jill Friese of Mode. Aunts, uncles and cousins. Sienna was the sunshine, and the world is now a little less bright.

Full obituaries may be read at the following links: Karly <https://www.howeandvoockey.com/karly-m-wetherell/>;

Edie <https://www.howeandvoockey.com/edie-j-wittenberg/> Sienna <https://www.lghfuneralhomes.com/obituary/Sienna-Bostedo>

Nominations for Candidates for Volunteer of the Year due August 19th

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

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

Nominee Criteria

Nominees must:

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

A letter of nomination citing the points or reasons the nominator feels like the candidate deserves to be named Volunteer of the Year should be submitted to the Strasburg Village Office prior to August 19, 2024. A committee will review the nominations and will select the winner. The Volunteer of the Year award for 2024 will be presented at the Village Wiener Roast on Friday, September 20th at Village Park. Previous winners of the award are: 2007 Larry Giertz, 2008 Gary Kull, 2009 Linda Oakley, 2010 Patsy Lenz, 2011 Karen Kull and Lisa Shelton, 2012 Chris Daniels, 2013 Jane Giertz, 2014 Charlie Culver, 2015 Jodie Quast, 2016 Brittany Kaufman, 2017 Jim Weiss and Justin Krile, and 2018 Angie and Jason Edwards, 2019 Doug Quast, 2020 MaRanda McClain, 2021 Ian and Stephanie Kinkley, 2022 Kristina Moore, 2023 Morgan Mathis.



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