

GNOME NEWS



GNOME NEWS IS GOOD NEWS!

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Important Dates

May 22 & 23 – American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Days

Sat., May 23 - Village Wide Rummage Sales

CANCELED May 25 – Memorial Day Service/Veterans Memorial

Thur., May 28 – Strawberry Shortcake and Porkburger meal by SCAN 4:30-6:30 p.m.

June 6-Sept. 5 – Farmers Market, 9-11 a.m. Community Center Parking Lot

Sat., June 6 – Farmers Market Kickoff Breakfast, 8-10 a.m.

Sun., June 7 - Lions Club Annual Chicken Fry, 4 p.m., Village Park

Wed., June 24 – Seasoned Citizens meet at noon

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

July 6-10 - Vacation Bible School for children and adults at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 9-11:30 a.m.

July 17-19 – Lions Club Homecoming and Strongman Competition

Message from the Mayor



A month ago, no one had heard the term Covid-19 and today if you hear the word once, you hear it 20 times a day. It has taken over our lives and our world.

My advice to all residents is to use “common sense” where this virus is concerned. You know your own health conditions better than anyone. If you have concerns, stay home and be safe. As you know Governor Pritzker has lengthened our stay at home until April 30. As the weather gets nicer, we can venture outside to work in our yards and take walks. Let’s be considerate of others. Parks in Illinois are supposed to be closed, but again I say “Use common sense”. If no one is at the park, go ahead and let your children play. No more than 10 people and use the 6 foot safety rule. The community center is closed to groups with more than 10 people in attendance.

If you want more information and statistics about how this is affecting our state, Illinois has 2 websites: www.iml.org/covid and www.coronavirus.illinois.gov.

A couple of reminders to our residents: 1. Golf cart owners should be getting a license renewal notice in the mail soon. Remember only licensed drivers may operate a golf cart on village streets. 2. When walking your pets, please clean up after them if you let them use your neighbor’s yard.

Happy Easter to all.

Keeping Strasburg Right! In the Middle of Everything!

Results from the 2020 Gnome Census are in!

See page 6 to find out if the number of gnomes

increased from the 2010 census.

Part V of V, HERE and THERE in Shelby County

By Beulah Gordon

Articles and Poems Covering Years 1818-1936

Collected And Edited By Shelby County Historical and Genealogical Society 1973

**STRASBURG
POPULATION 418**

Strasburg today has a population of 418. Through it following the old Grand Prairie Trail, runs Route 129. (GN Editor note: SBI Route 129 originally ran from [Effingham](#) to [Windsor](#). It was replaced by [Illinois Route 32](#) in 1936.) The business men of the town are: E.M. York, Clothing Store and Restaurant; G.C. York, General Garage; M.R. Storm, General Store; T.A. Weber and Sons, General Store; O.O. Kull, General Store; William Swigart, Garage, Gaylord Ulmer, Grocery; L.R. Hamm, Restaurant; J.A. Quicksall, Drugs and Jewelry; H.M. York, Barber; A.C. Duling, Blacksmith; Bryan Renshaw, Shoe Repairs; Alvin Kearney, Flour, Feed and Hardware; Louis Figge, Harness Shop; C.E. Bingaman, Cream Buyer; Martin Pipher, Lumber and Undertaking; Paul Rincker, Buyer of Poultry, Eggs and Cream; W.W. Engle, Hardware and Implements; C.C. Beck, General Store; F.F. Yakey, Elevator; F.H. Falk, Hay Buyer; Gilbert Ulmer, Hatchery; and John Biehler, Hatchery. The town has one newspaper, The Strasburg Herald, of which Frank Trainer is the editor. Strasburg's physicians are, Dr. W.F. Risser, and Dr. W.R. Schroeder. Oscar Green is the present mayor. It is interesting to know that most of the business men have been in business in the town for from twenty-five to sixty years.

TELEPHONE COMPANY ORGANIZED IN 1900

The Strasburg Mutual Telephone Company was organized in 1900 by Dr. W.F. Risser. Everyone in the exchange owns his own telephone, and the dues are \$4.00 a year. No more, no less. Gottlieb Miller is president.

Strasburg is proud of its fire department, which boasts a hook and ladder truck, gasoline engine, hose cart, and other minor equipment. W.W. Engle is President of this department and A.C. Duling is chief.

The Building and Loan Association of the town has a very remarkable record. Organized in 1894 with Dr. Amos C. York its first president and Alf Allen, secretary, it has built half the town. During the whole period of its existence (forty years) it has had but one lone and solitary foreclosure. Its present officers are G.C. York, president, and George Kull, secretary.

The Strasburg Chamber of Commerce has been active in promoting the growth of the town and was a determining factor in bringing Route 16 through Richland township. Their fight to accomplish this objective was carried to the Governor's office before it was finally won. Dr. W.F. Schroeder has been president and chairman of the organization for the past ten years.

One of the first things to which the pioneers turned their attention was the founding of the church and school, and these two institutions are still of paramount interest to the community. There are now four churches in Strasburg: St. Paul's Lutheran church, Rev. L. Stuebe, pastor; Grace Lutheran church, Rev. G.A. Schimmel, pastor; Methodist Episcopal church, Rev. Guy W. Holmes, pastor; Baptist church, Elder Walter Miller, pastor.

HAS THREE SCHOOLS

Strasburg has three schools: The Strasburg District High School, The Strasburg Grade School, and the St. Paul's Parochial School. The High School has fifty-eight pupils; the Grade School has forty-three pupils. John DeLaurenti is superintendent of both the grade and high school. H.T. Jackson and Mrs. Merle Grant, and Superintendent DeLaurenti are the teachers of the High School, and Mrs. Lulu Y. Watts, Miss Opal Quigle, and Mrs. Bertha York, form the teaching staff of the grade school. St. Paul's Parochial School has ninety pupils. W.A. Kramer is principal and G.W. Breitwisch, his assistant. In connection with its schools Strasburg has an active Parent-Teachers' Association of which Lena Wilson is president, and Mae Young, vice president.

DWELLINGS KEPT IN GOOD REPAIR

The dwellings in Strasburg are, almost without exception, well painted, and in good repair. The city has encouraged the citizens to paint their houses pure white, and many have complied with this wish. At present all the brick walks in the town are being raised and re-laid.

Placid and conservative, Strasburg gives little evidence of being only sixty years ago a huddle of stores on the wild and desolate prairie. But here the people from an old country have conquered a new land and through all their toil, merry making, and hardship the golden thread of romance has been woven.

The Gnome News editors hope you have enjoyed this trip down memory lane and learning about the history of our village.

PLASTIC BAGS ARE NO LONGER BEING ACCEPTED.

Walmart no longer has the program that the Strasburg LEOs were participating in.
We are sorry for any inconvenience

New Little Free Library in Strasburg

During this time when we are staying home, is a good time to read. Strasburg has a new Little Free Library at the Lenz farm on the North edge of town, 105 E N 4th St. Larry built the library this winter and it is placed on the east side of their driveway and ready to be used. There are various kinds of books available in the library: those that appeal to children, teens, women, men, and even cookbooks. Take a book, share a book. Feel free to write comments inside the front cover about the book in the ones you leave. The idea is to read the books and pass them on to someone else. Hopefully the Little Free Libraries help to build community, spark creativity, and inspire readers.



Remembering our loved ones

Vera Marie (Hartman) Schmitt, 97, of Strasburg passed away Feb. 22, 2020. Vera was born Nov. 3, 1922 in Stewardson, the daughter of Edward and Lydia (Rincker) Hartman. She married Roy Schmitt in 1946 and they worked together in the family farming operation. Vera was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Strasburg. She is survived by daughters Irene Pechman (Kenneth) of De Pere, Wis., and Doris Supan (August) of Strasburg; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Betty Lou Rosine, 92, of Strasburg passed away March 12, 2020 in Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana, IL. Betty was born on August 30, 1927 in rural Shelbyville, IL, the daughter of Burl Franklin and Grace Cecilia (Miller) Huffer. She married Charles Junior Rosine on May 5, 1946, upon his return from Guam, where he served during WWII. Betty was a member of the Strasburg United Methodist Church and a 50+ year member of the Strasburg American Legion Auxiliary. Junior and Betty had one son, Frank, with whom she lived after Junior's passing. Most recently, Betty resided in Mattoon with her eldest granddaughter, Paula Rosine. She is also survived by granddaughters Jennifer Rosine and Heather Drifmeyer, three great grandchildren and three great great grandchildren.



Biggest Loser Contest

Contest organizer, MaRanda McClain, reports that there are 30 participants in the Biggest Loser Contest which started in March. Participants have been staying active individually through quarantine and social distancing and staying accountable on the FB page with one another. The next weigh in is planned for May 4 if the quarantine has been lifted. The final weigh in is May 18 and the winner will be announced that day and will receive their winnings of nearly \$300.



How Strasburg residents are coping with COVID-19

Larry & Patsy Lenz: We certainly miss seeing people and the fellowship with others, especially at church. Staying home more has its advantages. We have had time to clean, sort and now do lawn work without having to hurry and finish. Patsy has been working on hand quilting a quilt and Larry has a 1000-piece puzzle he is putting together. We have used up a lot of scraps of material by cutting them into squares to be used for making blankets for the blanket making group at St. Paul's. We have had more time to contact friends and relatives by phone and mail. Even though we miss our church service we have used the TV and internet to enjoy 5 to 6 services on Sundays. We are thankful that we are well and pray that everyone else in the community will stay that way.

Jenny & David Burton: David and Adam have still been able to work, so that has been a blessing. I've been doing little projects around our home. I'm at our church, Stewardson United Methodist, each weekday handing out the school lunches to students.

Dylan & Amelia Ohnesorge: Dylan is considered essential, so nothings really changed for him sadly. I'm half essential, so my work and I have been rotating shifts. What I've been doing while at home is deep cleaning my house (not fun) haha but I've been working on a lot of projects that I kept pushing back such as refurbishing my trifold make-up vanity. I also have been riding my bike more now. I honestly spend most of the time with my spoiled dogs going on walks and long car rides. They have loved all the extra attention! Also, this past week I've started planting peppers in flower plots and succulents in my big chicks and hens pot.

Travis & Laura Dollarhide: The Shelter-in-Place gave us some extra time for getting an early garden started! Travis has planted lots of things and I'm happy to report we have lettuce coming up. We have a good stand of peas, despite the rabbits munching on them. I've tried a couple of new recipes and have improved upon my dough kneading technique. We are heeding the warnings to isolate physically, but have made good use of conference calls, What's App, texts and the old standby, phone calls. We are grateful for the warmer weather, giving us grass to mow and bees to keep!

Barb Ohnesorge: I'm still working, so I get out about every day. I check on my Mom and try to keep her stocked up. Collin, Dylan, Amelia and I started purging the basement. I've done some crafts and yard work. Seems like I'm always fixing food too. There are so many things out of my control, I just try to pray for all that is happening and ask God to help us in every way possible

Jack Burton, college student: It's tough not having a routine. I'm still able to work, even though it's slow. It's a perfect time to do some homework. I keep my bud Colin and his family perked up. I really love watching TV and finding different ways of technology that can help people instead of big-name companies charging them a fortune to do something I am able to do in 5 minutes. Which has also allowed me to create a hobby. Sort of like a movie maker software I have. I am able to make small films that have cheered people up. I'm in the process of making one with my friends and I going along with the song and ideas of the Full(er) House theme intro.

Zach Shelton, age 11: At first it was exciting to be off school and have my parents' home. But then I realized people were getting sick. My parents still have to work all day. And I actually miss going to school and seeing my friends and teacher.

Chris Kramer: Work has still been a bit crazy, but it's been nice to commute down the hallway! I've had more time to work on flower beds. Currently brought the dogs for a swim at the Bennett's.

Gary Kull: I'm practicing social distancing and hand sanitizing when working in customers' homes. With fewer meetings and commitments, I've enjoyed having more time to work in the garden and yard this spring. We are fortunate that we can still attend church services online.

Dwight Lading: We are not going anywhere, except taking drives in the country. Our children are picking up our groceries and things we need. We talk more to people on the phone. We listen to all the church services which is a blessing.

*May you all have a safe spring and please take time to check in with your neighbors and to call friends and family.
Stay connected!*

Strasburg Veterans' Memorial Committee Seeking Additional Names

In 2002 a committee was formed in the Village of Strasburg to raise funds for a memorial to honor the many veterans that have lived or are living in our community. This memorial was dedicated on July 4, 2005.

The Strasburg Veterans' Memorial Committee is asking the community's help in adding names to those listed on the memorial. All individuals who served in the military (completed basic training) and who either attended Strasburg Schools, or who had a Strasburg address are eligible to have their name placed on the memorial.

When contacting the committee with a name, the committee needs to know what year(s) that individual served and/or the name of the war/conflict. If anyone has any names that should be added, please contact Linda Oakley, lindao.1950@gmail.com, or send to PO Box 385, Strasburg IL 62465.



Powersport Focus, Inc., remodels store front along Rt 32

Nathan Stremming, owner of Powersport Focus, Inc., a web-based business which sells use four



wheeler parts, purchased the former Kull Appliance Center building at 103 S. Walnut St. in 2015. He recently made improvements on the building with a remodel of the store front. He was awarded a grant from the Strasburg Foundation in 2019 to assist with improvements.



SCAN receives grant from SICF



SCAN member Karen Kull receives grant from Amanda Lessley, President/CEO of Southeastern Illinois Community Foundation

The Strasburg Community Action Network was awarded a grant for Economic Leadership Training by the Southeastern Illinois Community Foundation for SCAN members to be able to attend the 31st Annual Rural Community Economic Development Conference in Springfield on Feb. 26 and 27. Gary and Karen Kull were able to attend. Lt. Governor Julian Stratton gave opening remarks with examples of what rural communities are doing to make life better for their residents.

Gary Kull summarized, "This conference offers insights into helping rural communities obtain their goals. The importance of **high speed internet** was a buzz word in every presentation. The ideas the speakers presented required high speed broadband to be successful, whether it be for projects related to ag, youth, elderly, or enhancing quality of life. We came away with many good ideas. We would love to match community members with projects they are passionate about so an idea can become a reality."

Village of Strasburg 2020 Gnome Census Results

2020 – 1294

2010 – 405

Gnome population increases by 320%

COVID19 might be keeping Strasburg residents in their homes, but at least they are sharing this time with their family – and perhaps a few friendly garden creatures. Or should we say a few hundred of them?!

The 2020 Strasburg Gnome Census is complete and the results are a whopping 1294 gnomes in town! This is more than triple the count of 405 in 2010. The villagers have been busy!

“The gnome has been a good mascot for our town. I know travelers that have heard of us and drive through to look for them,” said Mayor Cinda Held. “If you have a gnome, please display it this spring!”

Strasburg, which currently has a population of 450 residents, adopted the Gnome as its village mascot in 2008. Since then the gnomes have cropped up throughout the town. In fact, it is almost hard pressed to find a home or business without a gnome or two displayed anymore. Subway, Shelby County State Bank, The Equity Elevator, the park ball stand, the Fire Station, and Country Financial Insurance agency all boast an outdoor display. Gnomes can also be purchased at the Marathon gas station. Vahling Vineyards was inspired to produce a very popular wine called “Gnome Nectar.” Gnorman, the travelling gnome, often visits various locations around town - and the list goes on and on.

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Gnome Contest winner Jane Giertz with a couple of her gnomes

The village hosted a Facebook contest for residents to guess the correct number of gnomes. The guesses ranged from a few hundred to several thousand. The winner was Jane Giertz, resident and gnome enthusiast. Jane has 400+

gnomes and looks for them in other states when she travels.

For her lucky guess, Giertz was presented a box of neon colored Christmas gnome ornaments.



One of many Gnome displays in the Giertz back yard

To keep up with Strasburg and all the “gnome”tastic events, visit “Strasburg, IL: Right in the Middle of Everything!” on Facebook or go to www.strasburgil.com.

Tentative Future Strasburg Events

Due the Coronavirus pandemic, some of these events may be changed.
Watch for more details at www.strasburgil.com or on FB at Strasburg, IL: Right In The Middle of Everything!

- May 22 & 23 – American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Days
- Sat., May 23 – Village Wide Rummage Sales
- Thu., May 28 – Strawberry Shortcake & Porkburger Meal by SCAN, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Community Center
- Sat., June 6 – Farmers Market Kickoff Breakfast, 8-10 a.m., Community Center
- Sat., June 6 – Farmers Market 9-11 a.m., Community Center parking lot
- Sun., June 7 – Lions Club Annual Chicken Fry, 4 p.m. at the park

LIONS CLUB CHICKEN FRY

**4 p.m., Sunday, June 7
Strasburg Park**

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

Strasburg FARMER'S market



Vendors Welcome!

BUY LOCALLY

Saturdays
7 am - 11 am

June 6th - September 5th

Community Building Parking Lot

For More Information Contact Angie 217.644.3209 or Jane 217.644.3044
Made with PosterMyWall.com

Strawberry Shortcake & Porkburger Meal

**Thursday,
May 28**

Strasburg Community Center

Serving 4:30-6:30 p.m.



Strawberry Shortcake
Pork Burgers * Hot Dogs
Can't stay to eat?...Grab it to go!

SCAN
STRASBURG COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK

Strasburg Town Wide Rummage Sales and Flea Market at the Crib

**Saturday, May 23
Starting at 7 a.m.**

Discover the Garden Gnomes of Strasburg throughout the Village



Large Flea Market along North Rt 32

Crafts * Antiques * Furniture *
Fishing Tackle * Plants * Collectibles

Information contact Patsy Lenz: 217.644.2667
For more Strasburg festivals go to www.strasburgil.com

Also around town...
Edwards Crafts
Customer Appreciation Days
308 N Pine St.
Celebrating their 10th Anniversary

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SPRING



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**PO Box 385
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