

# GNOME NEWS

GNOME NEWS IS GOOD NEWS!



info@strasburgil.com

WWW.STRASBURGIL.COM

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## Important Dates

Fri-Sat., Dec. 13-14 – ALA Christmas Store Cookie Walk, 9-11 a.m.

Sat., Dec. 14 – Santa Claus at the Community Center, 9:30-11 a.m.

Wed., Dec. 18 - SS Seasoned Citizens, Holiday Pot Lunch, Noon

Tues., Jan. 28, SCAN Quarterly Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wed., Jan. 29, SS Seasoned Citizens, Noon

Strasburg Gnome News

Available electrically: Send your email address to [info@strasburgil.com](mailto:info@strasburgil.com)

Hardcopies available at Shortstop, Village Office or Shelby County State Bank, \$1

### VILLAGE OF STRASBURG

Monthly Board meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

### Season's Greetings from the Village!

At this time of the year when we tend to think about what we are thankful for, I sat down to do the same.

First, I want to thank all the village residents who have supported the village by abiding by our ordinances, being good neighbors and working to keep our village safe. Many of you have been patient with me as I try to figure out how to do what is best for our community. The Village Board cannot do it by ourselves. That's why residents are such a vital component to our success.



Cinda Held

Secondly, I am thankful for our strong organizations and their members who strive to do good things and provide social opportunities to our villagers and surrounding communities. SCAN, the Lion's Club with the LEO's, the American Legion and Auxiliary and our churches are all so important to making Strasburg a good place to live and raise our families.

Third, I am thankful to the businesses of our town without which we are just a speck on the map. We are very lucky that our businesses are owned and operated by hometown people who have a stake in making our village prosper. We, as residents, need to support our local businesses as much as we can and find ways and people to encourage new businesses to our community.

Finally, I am thankful for the newcomers to town. We have several new families in town and are thankful they chose our town Strasburg. At this time, we have 7 homes available throughout town just waiting for new owners to care for them. York Acres is now 6 houses strong with a new house on the way and 6 wonderful families to help grow our future.

With more people being able to work from home, Strasburg has the opportunity to grow. Fiber Optics is within the towns reach. This would be a positive for residents who work from home by providing faster internet and for homes that use streaming to view TV. This could potentially entice people who work from home to consider Strasburg because we have a nice quiet hometown and we are **Right! in the Middle of Everything!**

As we end 2019, what does the new decade have waiting for us? In 2024, Strasburg will be 150 years old. We would like to spruce up the town to get ready for a celebration. We hope to do some park renovations before then. Your help will be appreciated.

Cheers to 2020!

## 2019 Volunteer of the Year – Doug Quast



During Strasburg's Recognition Celebration held on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, Strasburg Village President Cinda Held presented the 2019 Volunteer of the Year award to Doug Quast. Mr. Quast is an active member of the community and is an original member of the Strasburg Community Action Network.

In the nomination it was noted that Mr. Quast has served on the Village Board, volunteered to wake up at 2:30 AM and smoke the sausage for SCAN's Santa Brigade Breakfast, has mowed the park during village employee transitions, was co-chair of the Hog Roast for several years, helps organize the parades in the Village, has been instrumental in ordering the new brackets and rehangng the Gnome flags in town

and building the new mail boxes in the Village, has volunteered his time on the Burnout in the Burg committee and gave his time to frame out and pour the concrete pad for the Burnout in the Burg.

His resourcefulness and hard work are inspiring to all. Congratulations to the 2019 Volunteer of the Year Doug Quast!

## Village Year-End Recognition Celebration

Several local village residents gathered Dec. 7 at the Strasburg Community Center for soup and the annual year-end recognition celebration. The Village, Strasburg Lions Club, LEO Club, American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and SCAN highlighted their accomplishments for the year.

Village Board President, Cinda Held, presented Doug Quast with the 2019 Volunteer of the Year award. Doug is an original member of the local Strasburg Community Action Network which was formed in 2008 and has volunteered his time in many ways over the years including helping organize town parades, cooking sausage for SCAN's annual breakfast and this year he volunteered his time to pour the concrete pad for the Burn Out in the Burg event. Cinda also noted that the Village Christmas Lighting Contest would take place the week of December 16.

Lions Club President, Charlie Doehring, shared that the Lions membership is at 41 and the high school LEO club which they support has 61 members. The Lions sponsor the local boy scouts, give annual donations, make fruit baskets and deliver to those who live alone, sponsor Santa Claus visit, collect used eye glasses, run the concession stand for summer ballgames, and spend hours cleaning up and doing maintenance at the park and ball diamond. They also host many successful community events such as the annual Homecoming, Strongman Competition and Chicken Fry. The LEOs plan activities at the school for Teachers Week and planted several trees at the park.

Linda Oakley, representing the American Legion Auxiliary was thankful for all the donations for the Danville Veterans. They have been collecting for the veterans for the past six years. The Auxiliary supports not only the Veterans, but the children and our community. The American Legion hosts the annual Halloween celebration and two Christmas auctions each year.

The Strasburg Community Action Network had several action team members who spoke about their activities.

- Housing – two new homes were built in York Acres
- Marketing – the website is being updated. They are looking for stories about the history of the town for the bi-monthly Gnome News.
- Beautification - planted flowers in the downtown area and have ideas for larger planters for the coming year.

- Community Improvements – updated a mailbox area and did paint touchups to some of the town gnomes.
- Family Activities – Brittany Kaufman reported that the Little Hatchets Sports Club was a huge success. Children in grades K-2 participated. It will be starting again in January.
- SCAN Breakfast & Market – Tanner Clark was in charge of the breakfast and Angie Edwards lined up all the market vendors. 2019 was the 12<sup>th</sup> year for the breakfast.
- Burn Out in the Burg Car Show – Angie Edwards noted that the burn out was a new event this year.
- Farmers Market – Patsy Lenz has been organizing the summer farmers market which takes place from June-August.
- S-S Area Seasoned Citizens – have 40 members and normally meet the last Wednesday of the month. They will meet December 18 this month. Anyone age 55+ is welcome to attend.
- Foundation – The Strasburg Foundation is working on an annual fundraiser. These donations allow the foundation to award grants locally for village improvements. Donations can be made online by going to <https://www.enrichingourcommunity.org/Donate-Now> and donating to either “Strasburg Community Improvement Endowment” (permanent fund) and/or to the “Strasburg Community Improvement Fund” (temporary or projects fund).

Many improvements and events happen in the Strasburg because many people donate their time and talents. If you see an area you would like to be involved in, please contact Linda at the Village office and she will get you connected to the right person. People are needed to take tickets, bake cookies, make phone calls, help organize an event, write a news story, help work a few hours at an event. If you can do any of these things, you are needed. *Thank you all for keeping Strasburg Right! In the Middle of Everything!*

### **Part III 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**

##### **RAILROAD OPENING**

But though the Illinois Central was running trains through the county before 1855, transportation still remained difficult and the community continued to be more or less isolated. In 1872 came the welcome news that the Chicago and Paducah Railroad was to build a line through Strasburg extending as far south as Thebes, and in anticipation of its arrival Charles Ostermeier put up a store building where M.R. Storm's store now stands. Here he opened up a general stock of goods, and supplied the nucleus of the future town. In 1874 the railroad was completed through Richland Township, and January of that year Ostermeier laid out forty acres of land surrounding his store for the site of a town, and christened it Strasburg, for his native Strasburg on the Rhine in Germany. The streets he named after those in St. Louis. Commercial Street being the main thoroughfare and the others bearing names corresponding to those of the great Missouri metropolis. The original plat of Strasburg lay east of the present hard road. The land west of the road was prairie, and was later farmed for a number of years.

From the very beginning, before the town was laid out, Ostermeier's store prospered. "Settlers came from far and near to exchange their eggs, butterfat, and poultry for groceries, calico, cups and saucers, plates, boots, and whiskey." Until the railroad went through goods had to be hauled from the station at Windsor. The Indianapolis and St. Louis Railroad, or Big Four as it is now called, having been constructed through that city in 1854. Ostermeier sent wagons after goods about once every sixty days, and it is said on these occasions there was never hauled back any less than five barrels of whiskey.

Strasburg was destined to be somewhat disappointed as to its railway, for during the panic of the '70's the Chicago and Paducah railway failed. At this time it had been built only to Altamont. Later, when the Wabash gained control of the road other railways had appropriated its intended route. For this reason its terminal was never extended beyond Altamont.

#### ALLEN'S HOTEL

The first building put up after Strasburg was laid out was Allen's Hotel, run by R.H. and A.F. Allen, and located where Max Weber now lives. Frank Beck was the first postmaster. W.D. Fink was the first blacksmith, and William Telgeman moved his brick yard in from a few miles out of town and established himself as first in the brick making business. Some of the other men who later became prominent in the town were: A.F. VanReeden, saloon keeper; Henry Barnhardt, Miller; H. Faster, Sr., merchant and postmaster; Pa and Ma Starner, eating place; Chris Kircher, merchant; J.H. Wiandt, jeweler, druggist, postmaster; Gustave Schroeder, shoemaker; Martin Hamm, merchant and realtor; Richard Rae Bigler, wagon maker; J.N. Storm, hardware; W. H Shaw, clothing store; J.T. Endicott and M. Montgomery, grain dealers; Albert Mochel, later of Shelbyville, harness shop; John Bower, Jr., J.J.Kull, J.C. Pfeiffer, and Bert Harves, furniture and paints; D.L. Bowen, sawmill; and many others. Jake Zimmer and Jake Ulmer, later prominent Shelbyville citizens once ran a store in the village. Early doctors were Dr. Burlington, Dr. Eli York, Dr. Amos York, and Dr. Brunk who sometimes came from Windsor. Two of the prominent early carpenters were a Mr. Spannagel and August Pependicker.

#### GERMAN TOWN

As the town grew, more and more Germans came to settle near it, and as time went on it became almost an entirely German community. In the "60's and '70's the "High Germans," from Ohio began to arrive, and in the '80's Pennsylvania Dutch came in considerable numbers.

To mention only a few of these later German families who settled near town were: The Altags, Bueskings, Voegals, Kulls and Webers.

*GN Editor Disclaimer: The information was taken verbatim from the book and spellings (of names, etc.) were the author's.*

As the Holiday Season is upon us, we find ourselves reflecting on the past year and on those who have helped us shape our community.

We value our relationship with you and look forward to working with you in the year to come. We wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a New Year filled with Peace and Prosperity

***Village of Strasburg Board: Cinda Held, Robert Anderson, Jack Clark, Jim Connell, MaRanda McClain, Anita Renshaw and Chuck Wade.***

***Village Clerk Linda Oakley, Village Fiscal Clerk Lisa Rincker***



#### ***Remember Jim Yockey***

**James L. Yockey (June 10, 1938-December 1, 2019)**

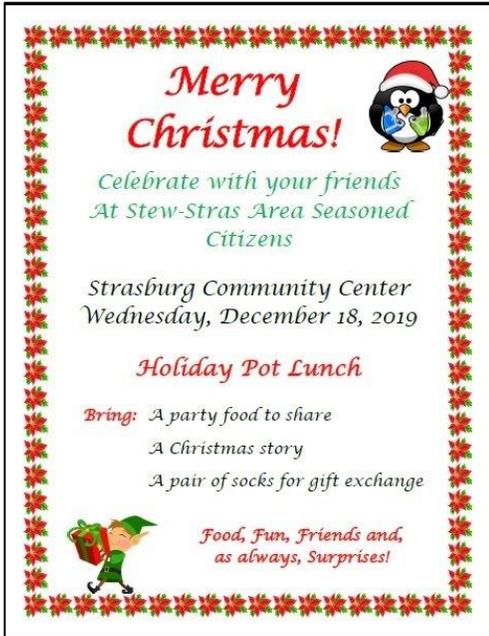
**~ Owner of Howe & Yockey Funeral Home**

**~ Friend and comforter to all**

## Stewardson-Strasburg Area Seasoned Citizens soup it up in October

Twenty-three Stewardson-Strasburg Area Seasoned Citizens met at noon at the Strasburg Community Center on October 30<sup>th</sup> for a delicious soup lunch. Not only were there four soups to choose from the desserts were just as good. We had Caramel apple cake, coconut cream cake, persimmon cookies, pumpkin bars, lemon cake, apple pie, brownies and apple bread.

A card was signed for the Gerry and Joyce Weaver, due to Gerry's health. Connie Wirth won the door prize, and Patty Reed shared a joke. Larry Giertz gave the tip of the day and plans were made for the November meeting.



On November 20<sup>th</sup>, the S-S Area Seasoned Citizens met for a lunch of sandwiches and salads. The Pledge of Allegiance was said as at every meeting and a prayer before the meal. After the meal, the group shared turkey stories about their experiences and boy were some of them funny. Chris Storm had some trivia about Thanksgiving and the group had a fun afternoon (two hours). The door prize was won by Marilyn Kessler, a turkey platter and some candy.

Due to Christmas falling on our regular meeting day, we will meet on December 18, at noon. The food will be finger foods or party foods. A gift exchange will be a pair of socks. We will play some games and it will be a lot of fun.

Village Clerk Linda Oakley made her announcements of upcoming events. December 7 a soup supper from 4-6 with the Volunteer of the Year announced and the Year-End Recognition of accomplishment from different groups. December 8 will be the Legion's Christmas Auction at 1 pm and the Lutheran Church's Cantata at St. Paul's at 7 pm. December 12 and 13 will be the Auxiliary's Christmas store and the drawing for the Dessert of the Month, so get your tickets soon. December 14 Santa will be at the Community Center

from 9:30-11 am. The week of December 12-16 will be the Christmas light contest.

We hope to have a good crowd on the 18<sup>th</sup> and don't forget to bring a pair of socks for the gift exchange. See you then.

## Local farmers served free lunch during harvest season

A Farmer Appreciation Luncheon that was held on October 29, 2019 at the village park.

The luncheon was sponsored by COUNTRY Financial and the meal was prepared by Papa's Smoked Meats. 65 meals of smoked pork loin sandwiches, chips and sugar cookies, were served that day. It was a way to tell the local farmers "Thank You" for all they do.



The first photo shows Larry Lenz receiving lunches from Garrett Moffett, local COUNTRY Financial Representative and Lisa Rincker, his assistant. The second photo shows Jean Pieper receiving lunches from Garrett Moffett, COUNTRY Financial Representative.





### LEOs & SSEF participate in Trunk or Treat

"The Strasburg Lions "LEO" Club participated in the annual "Trunk or Treat" night held at the Stew-Stras High School. The theme they choose was modeled after the movie "Frozen" and LEOs Megan and Mikala Nichols along with Landon Nichols dressed up in appropriate costumes.

A special THANKS to LEO Bella Braden and her family who donated the candy given out by the LEOs. Great Job LEOs"

L-R: Mikala Nichols Landon Nichols Megan Nichols

The Stewardson-Strasburg Education Foundation participated in the annual "Trunk or Treat" night held at the Stew-Stras High School on Monday, Oct. 28th. Board member Mary Tabbert did a great job coming up with the theme for the night and designing all the decorations. The Foundation would like to thank everyone who has supported the Foundation so we can participate in events like this.

Pictured: Mary Tabbert



### Sign up now for Illinois Fiber Connect

Fiber internet is the fastest residential technology available. Fiber internet works using fiber-optic lines, which are cables that contain strands of glass. The glass acts as a conduit for flashing lights that blink at designated intervals to relay digital code from one end to the other. This technology allows for internet speeds far beyond what you get from DSL or cable.

Visit [www.awesomefiber.com](http://www.awesomefiber.com) and fill out our Fiber Interest form. Once there's enough interest in your neighborhood, IFC will contact you about becoming a Fiberhood. **There is no obligation to purchase anything by filling out an interest form.** Make sure you type "Strasburg" when you fill out the interest form.

[https://awesomefiber.com/awesome-fiber-address-search/?fbclid=IwARoiX\\_Rt-JO8RRM8GYv9QisMDDgy5zFu1wUlZ7\\_yo9V1wFiLFXAmKPz7m7I](https://awesomefiber.com/awesome-fiber-address-search/?fbclid=IwARoiX_Rt-JO8RRM8GYv9QisMDDgy5zFu1wUlZ7_yo9V1wFiLFXAmKPz7m7I)

As of November 30, there were 30 interest forms submitted from Strasburg. Illinois Fiber Connect is *estimating* needing another 80 online interest forms submitted before expanding here.



The Santas have been placed around Strasburg thanks to some great little helpers!

Finn Friese & Camden Layton



Shoppers at the Santa Brigade Market



**STRASBURG LIONS LEO CLUB ADDS NEW MEMBERS**



The Strasburg Lions “LEO” Club inducted 27 new members into their club on November 5th. This is the largest group of new members the club has ever had. Most are freshmen with a few sophomores. With this group the club now has a total membership of 61 LEOs, which is the most in our history.

In the picture on the left, members of the LEO Board prepare to pass out the new member packets to each new member. After the LEOs took the LEO Oath, LEO Secretary Megan Nichols read the name of each new member who then came forward and received their new member packet from one of the LEO Board members.



The picture on the right shows a portion of the new members waiting to be inducted into the club. Congratulations to all the new members!

**Strasburg Merchant Christmas Greetings!**

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and God’s blessings to all. Thank you to all of my customers! I appreciate your business.  
Kim Mettendorf – **Uptown Hair**

Warmest Holiday Greetings  
From the folks at **Howe & Yockey Funeral Home**  
Jack, Judy, Neil and Junior

**A Stones Throw** wishes a Merry Christmas  
And Happy New Year to All!  
Sue Pikes & Joy Shumard

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
From the employees at the **Strasburg Post Office**  
Barb and John

Wishing a Joyous Holiday to all & to all a Blessed New Year.  
Thank you to our customers from all of us at **Shelby County State Bank-Strasburg Branch**  
Nate, Lisa, Karla, Sue, and Ashley

Peace and Joy to All at Christmas  
and throughout the New Year!  
From **Dean Rentfro Repair Service**

Thanks to all who let me serve you over the past year.  
May you have a Merry Christmas and Happy Year.  
God bless you all. **Karen Haarman**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
From Garrett Moffett, Marilyn Jansen & Lisa Rincker  
**Strasburg Country Financial**

Merry Christmas and many good wishes for a new year of happiness and prosperity. Happy Holidays from **Olivier’s**. Thank you for supporting us.  
Ed & Barb Olivier, 644-2677

Christmas is in the air!  
Wishing you all the joy, hope and wonder of the season.  
Gary Kull, **Kull Appliance** 644-3014 or 254-3141

Christmas Greetings from **Shortstop**  
Subway 644-3287  
Fuel/Pizza 644-3280

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
Tom Newell  
**Newell Sand and Rock Filter Cleaning**

Merry Christmas and many good wishes for a new year of happiness and prosperity.  
From your friends at **The Effingham Equity**

Special Thanks to all our new friends and old for making **32 Below** a success.  
Have a safe and happy holiday! - The Levitt Family, Michele, Beau, Jess, Angela L., Heather

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!  
**Krile Auction Service**  
Bruce, Marcia, Justin

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year  
From **Powersport Focus, Inc.**  
217-663-3669

**Merchant Greetings continued...**

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year  
From **Strasburg Feed Mill**  
Chris, Donnie and Matt Tabbert and Matt Strohl

Wishing you all the joys of Christmas  
and happiness throughout the New Year  
Britgit Smith, **Studio B Hair Salon** 246-3187, 644-2219

May the peace and beauty of the season remain with you  
throughout the coming year.  
**Dad & Son's Lawncare** – Kevin, Jacob & Isaac – 273-1481

Wishing you the joy of family, the happiness of friends, and the  
love of Christmas!  
**Strasburg Volunteer Fire Department**

Happy Holidays  
**Edwards Crafts-** Angie and Jason Edwards

Wishing you the brightest of holidays!  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
**Richland Creek Equipment, LLC** – Brad and Lance  
Montgomery

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year  
From everyone at  
**York Bin Company Inc.**

Wishing you and your loved ones all the wonder and magic of  
Christmas.  
**Tom Jewell Remodeling and Painting**  
217-823-2546

To the Village of Strasburg  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
From **Village President Cinda & Ed Held**



**PO Box 385**  
**Strasburg, IL 62465**