



"Gnome News is Good News"

Strasburg Gnome News

Wayne Wirth, Publisher

Linda Oakley, Editor

Oct 2011

gnomenews@strasburgil.com • www.strasburgil.com • I know where Strasburg, IL is! on Facebook

DATES TO REMEMBER

<i>American Legion Halloween Celebration</i>	Oct 22
<i>Trick or Treat Night in Strasburg 6-8pm</i>	Oct 29
<i>SCAN Santa Brigade Breakfast & Market Breakfast 6-11am; Market 7am-12:30pm</i>	Nov 12
<i>American Legion Auxiliary Christmas Store 8am-2pm</i>	Nov 23, Dec 3,10
<i>Joint Choir Christmas Cantata 7pm Trinity Lutheran Church, Stewardson</i>	Dec 11
<i>Village Christmas Lighting Contest</i>	Dec

Wayne's Words of Wirth



Wayne Wirth, Village Mayor/all around great guy!

The spring and summer seasons in the Village of Strasburg have been both busy and rewarding. The seasons started out with the annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary; then came

the very early planning and ordering of flowers for the annual SCAN flower sale. One of the oldest community activities is the Lions Club Annual Chicken Fry. This brings people together from all over the community to eat plenty of good old fried chicken, and socialize. In July the Strasburg Lions Club holds their annual Homecoming and the biggest little tractor pull in the world!

Two years ago the Village board decided that a fund raiser was needed to help pay off the Community Building's renovation loan. The Lions Club said they would help. The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary said they would join in. The SCAN organization wanted to help also. An organizational meeting was held and it was agreed to make this event one that would rally the citizens of Strasburg for a common cause - the Community Building.

Haley Mettendorf wins Miss Strasburg

Contestants for Miss Strasburg were: Haley Mettendorf, Nikki Nichols, Erika Davis, Emily Griffin, and Breeanna Brishke. Haley Mettendorf was named Miss Strasburg and Breeanna Brishke was 1st Runner Up.

Haley is the daughter of Dan and Kim Mettendorf of Strasburg. She is 16 years old and a Junior at Stewardson-Strasburg HS. Haley is involved in FFA,

National Honor Society, Business Club, Illinois High School Rodeo Association, and the Strasburg United Methodist Church. Haley's plans after high school are to go to Lake Land College and get a degree in Nursing and then transfer to be a Registered Nurse Anesthetist. Congratulations Haley!



Contestants for Little Miss and Little Mr. Strasburg were: Marissa Daniels, Zachary Shelton, and Miles Waldorf. Marissa Daniels was named Little



Marissa Daniels



Zachary Shelton and Miles Waldorf



Miss Strasburg and Zachary Shelton was named Little Mr. Strasburg.



ANNUAL AMERICAN LEGION HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION

Saturday, October 22
Strasburg Community Building

5pm Soup Supper by American Legion Auxiliary
Chili, chicken noodle soup, sandwiches, pie

7pm Stewardson-Strasburg HS Band/Masked Parade

Prizes will be awarded in the following categories: Storybook & Fairy Tales; TV & Movies; Clowns & Hobos; Monsters, Ghosts & Witches; Cowboys & Indians; Military; Animals; Miscellaneous; Under 3 years old; and Adults. Grand prize is \$25.

* Cake walk * 50/50 drawing * Merchants drawing

Everyone loves a parade!



HOG ROAST A SUCCESS DESPITE WEATHER

The Second Annual Strasburg Hog Roast, held September 3rd, was deemed a success by Chairman Chris Daniels, despite the lightning and rain. The Village of Strasburg, in conjunction with the Strasburg Lions Club, Liberty Post #289 of the American Legion, Liberty Unit #289 of the American Legion Auxiliary and SCAN were very pleased with the turn out and profit from the event. An approximate profit of \$4,000 was realized from the event. Profit from the event is for the reduction of the reconstruction loan (\$22,000) for the Strasburg Community Building.



Events included a parade, a meal featuring smoked pork loin and rope sausage (cooked by Mike and Chris Daniels), games for the children, a Farmer's Rodeo, a silent auction, Miss Strasburg Pageant, Little Miss and Mr. Contest and beer garden. Unfortunately the lightning and rain cancelled the concert by Pop Rocks.

RAFFLE Winners:

32" LCD TV donated by the Village of Strasburg – Bill Dick, Strasburg; \$50 Wal-Mart Card donated by the Law Offices of Kevin Giesler – Colton Wade, Shelbyville; \$50 Ace Gift Card donated by P & H Manufacturing – Nicholas Ferris, Stewardson; \$50 cash donated by Lee Beckman, Milano & Grunloh – Stephanie Rentfro, Strasburg; Pizza Party donated by 3rd Base – Eden Griffin, Stewardson; \$25 Aerobics donated by Lisa Shelton – Mac Figgins, Strasburg; \$25 cash donated by Matt Forcum for State Representative – Greta Cooper, Stewardson; \$25 cash donated by Matt Forcum for State Representative – Terry Stiner, Findlay; \$25 donated by Gina Vonderheide, Attorney at Law – Donna Schultz; and \$25 cash donated by Kull Appliance - Sue Moomaw, Stewardson.

GNOME Activities:

The gnome committee had nearly 100 small gnome stickers and pictures hidden in the park during the hog roast. Children found them all. Prizes were awarded to the top four winners: Hannah Schumacher, Nicholas Burton, Olivia Telgmann, and Marcail Clark. Each received a small gnome as a prize.

The ugliest Gnome in Strasburg lives with Nancy Sheils. This gnome was hand carved by her dad a few years ago. She won a thermometer with gnomes climbing on it.

The smallest gnome in town belongs to Alice Kayser. Alice's husband carved a wooden pair of gnome earrings which are only 1 3/4" tall. More gnome activities are being planned for next year.

Chairman Chris Daniels, the members of the Board of Trustees for the Village of Strasburg, and Mayor Wayne Wirth want to take this opportunity to thank all who donated items for the raffle, the silent auction and who worked so hard to make this event a success.



Village receives gift of Gnomes from South Carolina

Email received August 17, 2011 – “My name is Beth. I have saved your article from my local paper, *The Beaufort Gazette*, dated 4-18-2010. I am interested in knowing if you would want some more gnomes. I had a dear friend who was 82 years old and just passed. He looked like a gnome, so every time I visited him, I would get him a gnome...I have approximately 10 of them. I would be willing to send them to your community.”

This email was the beginning of the journey of Mr. Bill’s 10 gnomes from Beaufort, South Carolina to the village office plus the beginning of a wonderful friendship with Miss Beth. The following is a portion of a letter that was received from Miss Beth regarding Mr. Bill:

*“A few years ago, when the Travelocity commercials appeared on television, I knew who Mr. Bill really was. Mr. Bill was “my Travelocity gnome.” My Travelocity gnome passed in July of this year. I now have all the gnomes back I gave Mr. Bill throughout the years. Last year my mother came across your article in our local paper, *The Beaufort Gazette*, courtesy of the Associated Press. Your article hit home with me. Any town that “adopts” gnomes and is proud of it is a town I want to know. I have enclosed a picture of Mr. Bill as approximate age of 3 to 4 years... my favorite picture of Mr. Bill.*



Mr. Bill’s Gnomes

It is my wish your town will adopt Mr. Bill’s gnomes with pride.”

Well Beth, the gnomes have indeed been adopted and are proudly on display in the Village Office. Mr. Bill would be proud.



Mr. Bill



Beautiful fall display in front of Strasburg Shortstop, assembled by Becky Ulmer.

4th Annual Santa Brigade Breakfast and Market

serving pancakes and whole hog smoked sausage

Saturday, November 12, 2011

Breakfast 6am-11am

Christmas Market 7am-12:30pm

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
Social Hall and Gym

Over 25 vendors

Start your Christmas shopping here!

Sponsored by SCAN



Black Forest Santas

Hand painted



2011 Strasburg Gnome Ornaments
Available for purchase now at the Village Hall

Calling all holiday vendors



Contact Tami Mathis to reserve your booth space at the Strasburg Santa Brigade Market to be held on Sat, Nov 12 from 7am-12:30pm.

217-823-3959

tam.mathis@mchsi.com

Paying tribute to former community leaders

By Karen Kull

Strasburg lost two giants of community service in September 2011.

When growing up, I lived in the same location in Strasburg until I married and left home. My neighbors rarely changed during that time. The neighbors out the back door were Don and Mary Keller and their daughter Pat. My neighbors out the front door and across the street were Paul and Dorothy Juhnke and their daughters Debbie and Marcia.

Both Don and Paul ran businesses in Strasburg. Don was a Country Companies insurance agent. Paul and his brother ran Juhnke Feed Mill. Don was a member of Grace Lutheran Church and Paul a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Strasburg. Both men worked in Strasburg until their retirement.

Don served his country during WWII in the Navy Seabees and was a charter member of the Strasburg Lions Club. He also served on the Village Board. Paul was also a Lions Club member for many years. As Lions President in 1974, he put in many hours helping organize the Strasburg Centennial celebration. Paul was active on the Village Board and held offices at the church.

Don was the first guy working in the serving line at the Lions Chicken Fry, greeting all as he handed out plates and plastic ware. For many years Paul kept the ball park stand stocked with candy and soda.

Don always had a story to tell. Paul graced others with a great smile.

It is a rarity for anyone to run a business in Strasburg for over 30 years and both men did this. The Strasburg community was fortunate to be blessed with these men who not only lived here, but made it a better place.

Good bye neighbors! Thank you for your service. You will be missed.



Don Keller 5/15/1927-9/3/2011
 Paul Juhnke 11/23/1930-9/24/2011
 Complete obituaries may be found at www.howeandyockey.com.



LIONS CLUB DONATES TO COMMUNITY BLDG FUND

Strasburg Lions Club President Charlie Doehring presents Mayor Wayne Wirth with a check for \$2000 to help retire debt on the community building repairs.



Christmas Store Coming Soon

Sponsored by Strasburg

American Legion Auxiliary Unit #289

November 26

December 3, 10

Located inside Kull Appliance Service

Great selection of Gnome items

Aprons Coffee cups

Garden flags Sport gnomes

Glass ornaments Rada cutlery

Homemade noodles

Decorative glass blocks and more

Store Hours 8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 30 FUNDRAISER FOR NURSE'S SCHOLARSHIPS

Looking for an afternoon of fun? Please join us at a Wine Tasting and Bazaar at the Mattoon American Legion Post on Sunday, October 30. This is an American Legion Auxiliary fundraiser with proceeds going to nurses scholarships. Strasburg has been very fortunate to have had many of our candidates receive a \$1,000 scholarship through this program. Admission is \$5. For further information contact Linda Oakley at 644-3150.

Oct 2011 Stewardson-Strasburg CUSD 5A Construction Project by Superintendent Steve Harsy

What's new at the Stewardson-Strasburg CUSD 5A School? Just about everything. The high school has a new roof, geothermal heating and cooling which will provide an efficient cost-effective system of heating and cooling, new science classrooms, a state of the art science lab, new business classroom with all new 30 station computer lab and extensive remodeling throughout.

The elementary school has all new windows and screens, ceiling fans, a new multipurpose room with the flexibility to use all or two spaces with a divider for everything from high tech presentations on our Smart Board to physical education classes.

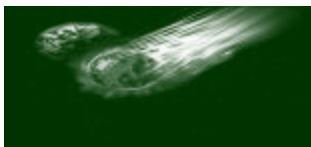
The entire school facility now has a state of the art Library Media Center with a 30 station computer lab along with ten computer lab stations in the main library for research and all forms of educational technology usage. In all, we now have 251 computers and dozens of smart boards throughout our school hooked up for efficient speed and up to date software. We added more broad band internet service via Illinois Century Network to provide the speed and access we need for using our technology throughout the school. We also brought in additional electric service throughout the building adding five electric and data connections in every classroom. We have added new high efficiency lights through the entire school which will provide a 60%+ savings on our electric usage. The entire back parking lot is being resurfaced up to the proper elevation with new foundation rock, oil and chip. The main gym, library and high school office will have all new HVAC for efficient heating and cooling.

We will soon have a new gym addition complete with seating for 450 visitors, a new high efficient heating and cooling system, a full size court that, with the bleachers pushed in, is large enough for two basketball or volleyball courts across the main court. This gym will be for elementary P.E., all level practices, special events, recess, and provide the opportunity for tournaments here at our school with two great gyms.

This summary is far from complete. We have attended to every possible detail to ensure we have a well maintained facility that will meet the needs of our students, staff, and community.

We hope you will come visit us soon to see what we have been able to accomplish. This is truly a community project many years in the making.

In all, we have been able to bring our entire school up to a new standard not previously thought possible with a majority of the funding coming from the State of Illinois and grants. The Stewardson-Strasburg School District is ready to proudly serve generations of students for many years to come.



High School instructor Mr. Smith using one of the new smart boards.



Updated science lab



SSMS Students
 Front row: Erika Davis, Brendan Wascher
 Second row: Mariah Tabbert
 Third row: Miriah McAcharar, Sarah Luce
 Last Row: Justin Fulk, Ashley Probst

Gnome News

The next issue of Gnome News will be December **10th**
Deadline for submissions is 12/1 Please send all contact information, artwork and photos to:



gnomenews@strasburgil.com

TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT IN STRASBURG



SAT, Oct 29
 6:00-8:00 pm

Trick or Treaters are encouraged to stop only at those houses who have their porch lights on.

Strasburg Gnome News

To date, subscriptions are:

Email copies: 410

Mailed copies: 24

Local copies: 100 +

Way-to-Go-Strasburg!!!

Strasburg Gnome News
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We're on the Web...
www.strasburgil.com



**STRASBURG AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY – ANNUAL VETERANS
DAY COLLECTION**

The Strasburg American Legion Auxiliary is again conducting their Annual Veterans Day Collection for Illiana VA Facility (Danville) through Thursday, November 10th.

Unfortunately, only new clothing is currently being accepted at the VA facilities, so we cannot accept used clothing.

Items that are needed include: Slippers, 2 in 1 shampoo and conditioner, razors, body wash, alcohol free mouthwash, toothbrushes, deodorant, hats, gloves, scarves, hotel size toiletries (not opened), playing cards, puzzle books, denture cleaner, denture adhesive, underwear, athletic shoes (Velcro laces), shaving cream, full size candy bars, fun size candy bars, Gas Cards (Casey's in \$10 increments).

ITEMS NOT NEEDED: Medicated anything or medical supplies, used clothes, toothpaste, hand soap, bar soap, hand sanitizer (large).

You may drop off your donations at the Village Office on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday during regular office hours.

Subject: Fire Safety Week is October 9

Fire Safety Week is October 9-15, this year. Fire Chief Larry Giertz and Safety Officer Jane Giertz will be going to the S-S grade school on Friday, October 14 for a safety presentation for pre-K through 3rd grades. It is important for the children to receive a safety talk, but what about the adults in our community? Did you know that 1/5 of all home fires in the U.S. start in the kitchen?

Most important of all is what we teach children. If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop cover your face and roll.

Smoke alarms help save lives, but only if they contain a working battery! Smoke alarms provide an early warning in the event of a fire, where seconds count. Test all smoke alarms once a month by pressing the test button, Keep spare batteries on hand and if your alarm chirps, the batteries are low and need replaced immediately. Replace the batteries at least 1-2 times per year. Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement. Practice with children on getting out two ways.

York Acres

LOTS AVAILABLE FOR \$2500

MUST SATISFY COVENANTS FOR TIF REBATES
MUST BUILD WITHIN 1 YEAR OF CLOSING ON LOT
MUST BE STICK BUILT

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL

VILLAGE HALL
217-644-3007
217-690-8030
MIKE ANTONACCI
217-343-9789

Garett Moffett, Country Financial Agent

Country Financial has a new face. Garett Moffett is the local Country Financial agent. Garett started at Country Financial September 26th. He is eager to meet the community and continue to build the practice. Garett is from the small farming community of Cowden, IL. Garett started his career at Prudential of Champaign. At Country Financial Garett will be able to offer Home, Auto, Life, Long-Term Care, Commercial, Crop and, Health Insurance as well as Retirement Planning, Investments, Disability Income, College Education Savings and Estate Planning.

Garett attended Cowden-Herrick High School. He was involved in basketball, baseball, FFA, NHS and Valedictorian of his graduating class. He then enrolled at Illinois State University. He graduated with a double major in Finance and Economics. He was an Illinois State Scholar and student assistant to the ISU basketball team for four years. While at college, he coached the 7th grade basketball team for Calvary Baptist "Up Wards Program".

Garett is happy to be in our rural farming community. He has roots here and in neighboring Cowden, Mode, Stewardson, and Shelbyville. Garett and his wife Courtney make their home in Shelbyville. Courtney teaches math at Charleston Jr. High and is Jr. High cheerleader coach. Garett is an avid deer and turkey hunter. He also enjoys golf, farming and coaching.

Garett along with Marilyn Jansen and Lisa Rincker will be available to help with any insurance or investment questions or concerns. Call 217-644-2203. Stop in and say hello to Garrett at 206 E Commercial.

The office hours are Monday-Wednesday and Friday 8-5, Thursday and Saturday 8-12.

Welcome Garett! Strasburg is happy to have you in the community. We wish you much success and a long and happy career.

By Barb Ohnesorge





2012 Strasburg Calendars

“Our Veterans”

will be available for purchase at the

**Santa Brigade Breakfast and Market
On Sat, Nov 12 at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church**

With almost 30 photos of Veterans with ties to Strasburg
\$2 of the purchase price will be donated to the
Strasburg American Legion Post 289

Pre-order your copy online at www.strasburgil.com
or purchase at the Village Office



STRASBURG VOLUNTEER OF YEAR ANNOUNCED

It was a perfect evening for the annual Village of Strasburg’s Weiner Roast, held Friday, September 23rd at the Strasburg Park. Sponsored by the Strasburg Lions Club and the Village of Strasburg, this event is a time for residents to enjoy each other’s company in a relaxed atmosphere.

The Lion’s Club furnished the hot dogs, buns, and baked beans. Community members brought the sides, including a lot of delicious desserts.

The Volunteer of the Year award was presented by Mayor Wayne Wirth to Karen Kull and Lisa Shelton. Mayor Wirth noted that these two ladies are very committed to the marketing of the Village of Strasburg. They are the editors of the Village’s newsletter, the Gnome News, and are instrumental in the printing of the newsletter by Lake Land College’s printing department. Mrs. Kull and Mrs. Shelton maintain the Village’s Facebook page “I know where Strasburg, IL is”, and webpage www.strasburgil.com. They are the co-chairs of the Marketing Committee for the Strasburg Community Action Network (SCAN) are very involved developing the Welcome Packets, and in ordering Gnome items to sell to help market the Village of Strasburg.

Congratulations to Karen Kull and Lisa Shelton, the 2011 Strasburg Volunteers of the Year.

Following the presentation of the Volunteer of the Year award, those in attendance enjoyed a hay rack ride and sitting around the fire and visiting.



Front: Karen Kull and Lisa Shelton
Back: Mayor Wayne Wirth

Wayne’s Words of Wirth cont...

rodeo, etc. an annual event. Put September 1st on your calendar for next year for another fun filled day!

The community wiener roast and hayride have become an annual event. The Lions Club and Village sponsor this activity. Our children like the wiener roast, and can’t wait to get going on the hayride, the first for a lot of them.

A Farmer’s Market was started this year. It was ruled a huge success. Plans are to continue next year and to make it bigger and better.

Block one of West Franklin Street was rough and low. Some trustees and Derek Durbin, along with the help of Joe Oakley and the road patrol, put down rock, raised the road above the ditches, packed it, added rock and oiled it. Job well done! Most of this work was done by volunteers. Everyone is asked to volunteer. An easy way to get started – just join SCAN!

Our Volunteer of the Year award was presented to two individuals. These ladies worked so close together that we could not separate them – so we chose to honor both of them. Congratulations to Karen Kull and Lisa Shelton. We look forward to continue working with you.

We want to thank Paulette Ballinger for being on the Village Board. Her work schedule just would not allow her time to continue. Thank you Paulette!

The Village board is looking for someone to fill Paulette’s position. Please let a board member know if you are interested.

Our big project for the year was repairing our lagoons for the sewage system. Most of the rip rap was gone and the banks were starting to wash away. The EPA was “suggesting” we get something done about it. Working with the engineer at Milano and Grunloh, we received an emergency partial grant of \$100,000. The Village is working to come up with our share of \$35,000. We are determined to make it. They try to use some local help. Our own Tom Newell got the job of cleaning and repairing the filters. Thanks to all for a job well done!

Members of our Village’s work force are all part-time help: Village Clerk/Office Manager – Linda Oakley; Financial Clerk – Bridget Polk; Water & Sewer Superintendent – Derek Durbin; Weekend Water Backwash – James Veach; Official Licensee – Tom Newell. A lot of work has been accomplished! Thanks to all for a job well done!

Let’s keep on making

**“Strasburg RIGHT!
in the Middle of Everything.”**



Holiday Decorating Contest

Enter the Village Holiday Decorating Contest in December.
Watch for more details to come!

