



"Gnome News is Good News"

Strasburg Gnome News

Wayne Wirth, Publisher •• Nikki Daniels, Editor

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June 2011

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Thursdays - June 2 to October from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Farmers Market, Strasburg Community Building Parking Lot
- June 28 - 7 p.m. SCAN Quarterly Meeting Strasburg Community Building. Everyone welcome!
- July 9 - Strasburg Shortstop customer appreciation days, 10 a.m.-2p.m.
- July 15-16 - Strasburg Lions Club Homecoming
- Aug 15 - Next edition of the Gnome News, submissions due by the 10th
- Sept. 3 - Hog Roast, Little Miss/Mister Strasburg Contest

For more events, visit "I know where Strasburg, Il is!" on Facebook or strasburgil.com.



Wayne's Words of Wirth

The Strasburg VOLUNTEERS are still enjoying life! From the SCAN Annual Flower Sale through the Annual Lions Club

Chicken Fry, happy volunteers are getting the job done. The flower sale was again another successful event. It takes much manpower ordering, sorting and distributing orders.

A new organization has sprung up – the Seasoned Citizens Group. Anyone 55 years young is invited to join, but no actual invitation is needed to attend the next event, June 29 at noon at the park.

The Town Wide Rummage sale – WOW! Cars were all over town, people scurrying all around, buying up all the bargains and looking for those special gnomes. This is what it is all about.

Continued on page 6.

Happy Summer!

Don't miss a special event Friday, July 15 during the Strasburg Homecoming! Bring your friends and family to see Gnomeo & Juliet! The outdoor showing will start at 8:30 p.m. (dusk) at the Ball Park. Bring your own blankets and lawn chairs. Popcorn, candy and pop will be available for purchase.

About the movie: Garden gnomes Gnomeo and Juliet have as many obstacles to overcome as their quasi namesakes when they are caught up in a feud between neighbors. But with plastic pink flamingos and lawnmower races in the mix, can this young couple find lasting happiness? Written by Walt Disney Pictures. Rated G.

Info retrieved from www.imdb.com/title/tt0377981/. image retrieved from www.disneydreaming.com/2010/12/18/touchstone-pictures-gnomeo-and-juliet-movie-poster/



Update on York Acres Subdivision

The village board recently approved a new incentive. Now, two lots may be purchased for \$5,000 for one home with a minimum of 2,600 square foot of living space and a 50% tax abatement up to the purchase price of the lot



Nearly 1/2 acre residential lots for sale * \$2,500 with incentives *
Must satisfy covenants * Call 217-690-8030



Strasburg 2012 Calendar



"Our Veterans"

The SCAN 2012 Strasburg calendar theme is "Our Veterans." Now through August 31, 2011, SCAN will be accepting submission of photos for consideration in the 2012 calendar. Pictures of Veterans with ties to Strasburg, who have served our country (past or present), will be considered. There will be a \$5 fee for each photo submitted.

- ◆ Photographs must be submitted electronically as a JPEG to: gnomenews@strasburgil.com (make sure you receive confirmation email to ensure delivery).
- ◆ Photos not submitted electronically, or not in high resolution may not be accepted.
- ◆ In addition, birthdays and anniversaries can be printed on the calendar event date for \$1 per submission.

All proceeds go towards calendar costs and to benefit the Strasburg Community Action Network.

2012 Calendar Submission Form "Our Veterans"

MAIL ENTRY FORM AND MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

SCAN, PO Box 385, Strasburg, IL 62465

VETERAN PHOTOS / SUBMIT \$5 PER PHOTO

Photos are to be emailed as a JPEG file to: gnomenews@strasburgil.com /Submit \$5/photo

Email or mail the following photo information:

Please clearly PRINT the answers to the following questions (may use an additional sheet of paper for more room).

Name of person submitting photo: _____ Phone number of person submitting _____

Name/Rank of Veteran _____ Branch _____ Years Served _____

MOS _____ Date of Birth (if still living) _____ Connection to Strasburg and about the

Veteran: _____

Description of photo (tell us what is going on in the photo, names of others in the photo etc): _____

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY SUBMISSIONS / SUBMIT \$1 PER EVENT

Please PRINT person's name and birthday or couple's anniversary and date. Mail information, along with payment to the address above. Submissions may also be completed at the Strasburg branch of the Shelby County State Bank or at the SCAN booth at the Strasburg Homecoming. Name: _____ Birthday/Anniversary: _____

Cut here and return

Strasburg Lions Club Homecoming Schedule of Events

Friday evening, July 15

5:00pm Pork Chop Dinner (begins)
Ice Cream and Cake by LYF

7:00pm Stage Entertainment (begins)
DANCE, ETC.

7:30pm Pet Parade (first ever)

7:00pm Beer Garden opens (close 11:00)

8:30pm Band on Stage "the Harley's"

8:30pm (Dusk) Movie @ Ball Diamond
"Gnomeo & Juliet"
-bring blankets and lawn chairs

Saturday, July 16

9:00am Bike Ride

11:00am Tractor Weigh-in begins

Noon Food Stand opens

1:00pm TRACTOR PULL begins

1:00pm Kid's Games (Ball Diamond)

3:00pm Pedal Tractor Pull (Ball Diamond)

3:00pm Beer Garden opens (close Midnight)

6:00pm Approx. start of Truck Pulls



What's happening with the Seasoned Citizens?

Submitted by Jane Giertz

On April 27, there were 21 who met in the Methodist Church fellowship hall for two hours and had a very good time.

There was lots of great food, speakers and Bingo with prizes to be won. We learned what the Lions Club does with the eyeglasses and used hearing aids collected at the bank. We learned about phone service and a few other things. The Peace Corp Fellow Eric Sutton was there and talked about what he is doing for the community and for Stewardson.

We met again on May 25 for a picnic at the park, but due to the stormy weather, we met once again at the Methodist church. There were 17 at this meeting, and we are hoping

for a large crowd next time. Once again we had lots of good food some talks. We heard all about the blind softball team from Chicago that played Altamont and the Comets. Due to the stormy weather, we cut this meeting short.

Picture of the cake made by Doris Stremming.



Weeeee! Kids play at the Strasburg Park during the Lions Club Chicken Fry.

The next meeting of the Seasoned Citizens will be on June 29. Please feel welcome to come and join us in the fun and fellowship. If you want to know more, call Chris Storm at 217-644-2608.

Sarah Gracey honored

Submitted by Lisa Rincker

Sarah Gracey has been honored as one of the Mattoon Journal Gazette/Times Courier class of 2011 "20 Under 40." "20 Under 40" is a recognition of 20 individuals under 40 years of age who have made a significant service/work contribution to the East Central Illinois region. Sarah was nominated by her boss at LifeLinks Mental Health for her contributions to that not-for-profit agency as an important part of their Administrative Team.

Sarah works as the Chief Financial Officer/ Human Resource Coordinator for the agency and has been an integral part of the leadership which helped to bring the agency out of a difficult financial situation. Letters of recommendation were also received for her work as Co-Chair of the SCAN Beautification Committee and Treasurer of the Trinity Lutheran School PALS organization. Sarah has co-chaired the annual SCAN spring flower sales since its inception and sings in the St. Paul's Lutheran Church Choir. Sarah is married to Jeremy Gracey and they are the proud parents of Jacob, Nathaniel and Samuel.



Way to go Sarah! We are proud of you!

American Legion Auxiliary News

Submitted by Cinda Held

The Auxiliary is winding down its current year. May was poppy month. Veterans in hospitals and Long-Term care make these poppies. Poppies are a reminder of all the brave men and women who have fought for our country and what it stands for. We want to thank those who supported our Poppy Day collection totaling \$350. This money will be divided between the Central Illinois Honor Flight, Illiana VA, and the Mattoon Outpatient Clinic. Linda Oakley is currently the Illinois Department representative to the clinic. Our unit has received \$830 credit for our donations of cookies, books, caramel popcorn and coffee cups to this clinic. Our Unit volunteers at the clinic have been Jane Giertz with 10 hours and Linda Oakley with 221 hours. Volunteers greet the patients, serve cookies drinks and aid the clinic with other needs.

In honor of deceased veterans the Auxiliary puts flags in the local cemeteries at Memorial Day. 187 flags were displayed at 5 cemeteries: Grace - 72 flags, Lone Point - 2, Richland - 40, St. Paul's - 69, and Wade cemetery - 4.

We have several members involved with Illini Girls State at Charleston to be held June 19-25. Sarah Wyckoff is Director, Caralea Moffett is Dean of Education, Nicole Wildman is a staff adviser, Linda Oakley is the office secretary. Over 350 girls will attend IGS.



Customer Appreciation Days
 Strasburg Shortstop will be having customer appreciation days on **Saturday, July 9 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.** There will be prizes, food and fun! Plan now to attend and enjoy the festivities.

Are the Olney white squirrels invading Strasburg?

Although not completely white, two squirrels with light tails have been seen at the Dwight Lading residence. One squirrel has a light brown body with a light gray tail.



The other squirrel has a light gray body with a white tail. The mother squirrel is a brown squirrel. They were first seen early spring in the maple tree in the front yard on West Commercial Street.



Holly Giertz has also seen them in her yard and said "If these little critters multiply, Strasburg may have to vote in a second mascot (move over gnomes)!!"

Community Building Facility Rental Rates

- *\$60 meeting, reunion or similar event
 - *\$100 wedding or similar event-no alcohol
 - *\$200 wedding or similar event with alcohol (\$100 refundable deposit and insurance required to hold date)
 - *\$50 deposit for any rental (refundable if contract terms are met)
- Must be signed to hold your date.

To schedule call:
 217-644-3007
 214-690-8030

Village of Strasburg
 PO Box 385
 Strasburg, IL 62465
 info@strasburgil.com
 Village Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs.
 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Community Building

 Village Hall -
 217- 644-3007
 Water Plant -
 217- 644-3018

The BIG Tree

Submitted by Doris Stremming

At the home of Delbert and Doris Stremming (on the corner of north second and Elizabeth Streets in Strasburg, Il.) stands a huge old Ash tree which is undoubtedly over 100 years old. A tree surgeon said that it was dying, but thankfully it is greening up and still alive this season.

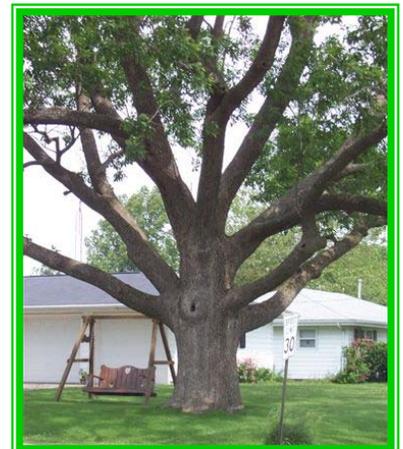
When I was a young girl, my twin sister Dorothy and I would go to our Grandma Reed's house and help her. She lived just three houses down the street from where I live now. My twin and I would walk to town and get groceries for our grandma. She always wanted puffed wheat in a large see through bag. On our way to the store we would pass by this corner lot where the big tree stood. In those days it was pasture and cows would be seen grazing in the pasture, and often times resting in the shade of the big tree.

We have a swing set under the tree now, and it's lots of fun sitting in the swing and gazing up at the huge limbs and beautiful green branches and leaves extending over our driveway and out towards the street. Makes you think of all the years this proud tree has grown and survived through all kinds of weather. We will continue to enjoy its beauty, its shade and the memories it has given us. Which reminds me of the poem by Joyce Kilmer titled "Trees", which we were required to memorize in our 7th grade reader. It goes like this:

Trees

by Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see
 A poem as lovely as a tree;
 A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
 Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
 A tree that looks at God all day
 And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
 A tree that may in summer wear
 A nest of robins in her hair;
 Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
 Who intimately lives with rain.
 Poems are made by fools like me,
 But only God can make a tree.



Thank God for letting us enjoy this beautiful old ash tree on our corner lot. Come by and see it sometime!

The "Pretty Darn Good" couple of Strasburg

Submitted by Cole Foreman, Morgan Hill, California

When you ask someone about their marriage, what would you expect to hear? That it's good; that it's average; or even that it's... how you say... a nightmare. Well, that is not the case of my grandparents, Rex and Ada Foreman.

When I asked my grandpa to describe the entirety of his marriage in a single phrase, he replied, "Pretty Darn Good." Not just 'good.' Not just 'pretty good,' but "Pretty DARN Good."

But then again, what would you expect to hear from a man who's been married 50 years? Today, most marriages barely make 5 years, but my grandparents are the perfect example of a successful couple and on June 3rd, this "Pretty darn good" couple reached a rare milestone, the 50th anniversary of their wedding.



Rex and Ada first met each other nearly 55 years ago when they were only in high school. Rex's brother and Ada's brother got the two together when they were no older than 15 or 16 years old, and the two have been together ever since. The two weren't hesitant to tie the knot either; on June 3rd, 1961, Rex and Ada were married at Effingham's Sacred Heart Church. The two worked side-by-side at a truck-filling station at a restaurant until Rex signed on as a truck driver, which he has done almost his whole life. Even today, Rex hauls machinery for Diamond transportation, and often takes his wife along with him on his treks across the country.

After their marriage, Rex and Ada moved into their first home in Hord, Illinois, where they had their first child, Debbie. After about 6 months, the family moved to a new home in Arcola, Illinois, and after 4 years, they moved closer to their current home in Stewardson. In 1965, the growing Foreman family moved into their current residence in Strasburg, where they've lived a modest life ever since. All in all, Rex and Ada had 6 children: Debbie, Tommy, Billy, Kathy, Richard (My dad), and Michael. One can say that the Foreman household wasn't exactly the quietest in their neighborhood, but they were happy nonetheless. When they first got married, neither of them ever expected to have that many kids and 11 grandkids but, "they were happy and fine with it."

My grandpa did say that Ada wanted 5 girls. She didn't get five girls, but I'm sure she had her hands full with the 4 boys, especially since my dad was one of them. As their kids went off to live their own lives, things never began to quiet up around the Foreman house. Grandchildren came quickly and even today, their house is always a home to any of their 11 grandchildren.

All of the Foreman kids went on their separate roads of life, and most stayed pretty close to the old Foreman house in Illinois, except for my dad, of course, who ended up as far away as possible in sunny California. I am sure that my Grandparents are proud of all their children and the paths they chose in life.

My grandparents, Rex and Ada Foreman, led a pretty other-than-ordinary life, and they enjoyed every bit of it. I only wish that when I'm 70 years old and my grandchild is writing an article about me, I can also say that I have had a "Pretty Darn Good" life and marriage as well. **Happy 50th anniversary Grandma and Grandpa!**

Have a birthday or anniversary you want everyone to celebrate?

Submit it to the 2012 Strasburg Calendar! Forms are located at the Strasburg Bank until Aug. 31. The cost is just \$1 per submission and all proceeds go to SCAN. More details on page 2.

Be on the lookout for a new crop of gnomes this summer! Thanks to Jill Spour and her SSHS students for helping the village create the cute, 4 foot gnomes! The tech class made the gnomes as a class project! They will greet visitors at the bank and park!



Strasburg Farmers Market

The first Strasburg Farmer's Market sponsored by SCAN was held June 2 in the parking lot of the Community Building. There were four vendors with fresh produce, flowers and wood crafts. **The Farmer's Market is every Thursday from 4:30-6:30 p.m. until October.** We want the Market to become a regular event that people won't want to miss. To be successful we need two things: vendors and buyers. We want this event to be an outlet for both these groups. It is also a good place to socialize. Even if you don't have much, you can donate it to the SCAN table and we will sell it for you. As gardens continue to grow and thrive we expect more and more produce to come in. **Make a point to come by and let's give Strasburg a good reputation among Farmer's Markets.**

Cute for a cause

Submitted by Angie Edwards

Our American Bulldog puppy, Miss Madie, recently won the Cutest Pet Contest at the Shelbyville Wal-Mart. Miss Madie received the most votes each vote costing a penny. All the money raised went to the Children's Miracle Network. In return she received a \$25 gift certificate to Wal-Mart and a basket full of treats.



Wayne's Words continued...

We are trying a new venue for Strasburg, a Farmers Market. I remember when this was just an idea mentioned at one of our SCAN sessions. After much discussion, it is great to see it come to fruition. I personally want to encourage everyone to check it out and invite anyone wanting to market produce and goods.

One of the long time events is the Lions Club Chicken Fry. If you have never attended this event, you are missing one of Strasburg's icons. This edition of the Gnome News has information about several exciting upcoming events for you to enjoy this summer.

A special thanks from the Strasburg community for all the volunteer work you have done and continue to do. Without your ideas and help, little would be accomplished.

P.S. Everyone is invited to volunteer!! Let's keep on making Strasburg Right! In the middle of everything!

Parade your sporty pet

Tails will be wagging all over town during the first annual Pet Parade at the Strasburg Homecoming! The event will be held Friday, July 15 at 7:30 p.m. The theme for the pet parade is **"Sports"** and cash prizes will be given for the following:

1. Best dressed pet keeping with the Sports theme
2. Best dressed pet and participant keeping with the Sports theme
3. Most unusual pet

Registration is encouraged. Forms available at the Strasburg Bank and Short Stop, Stewardson Bank and restaurant, and Windsor grocery store. All animals must be on a leash or in a container. No political or commercial ads allowed and no candy to be thrown.



Red geraniums blooming around town *Submitted by Jane Giertz*

The Beautification Committee has once again planted geraniums at the welcome signs and around town. If you are walking and see the plants at the community building needing water or dead flowers needing removed, please feel free to water and deadhead the flowers. There is a planter at Boldt's, two at the Looking for Lincoln Storyboard and there are geraniums at the flag pole.

Jane Giertz, Pam Clark and Dwight Lading have done the planting with some help from Jack Clark in removing the old plants at the flag pole and removal of the old railroad ties. There are now nice stones at the flag pole. If you enjoy the flowers, please let these people know. You can also let one of these people know if you have any suggestions on what else can be done to help beautify our community.



If you can volunteer to water or groom the flowers for one week or few, contact Pam Clark at 644-2402 or cailnt@hotmail.com

The future is up to us

The Strasburg Community Endowment Fund is an important part of the future of our community. With shortages of government funds, the future is up to us.

Monies which are set aside now will not be spent, but will serve as a pool of funds for future generations to use to help our community. Please consider the Strasburg Community Endowment Fund for a tax exempt gift or a memorial for a loved one.



Find a donation form at www.strasburgil.com, or <http://enrichingourcommunity.org/> or call Jodie Hightower at 217-342-4988.



Hundreds of people turned out this year for the Lions Club Chicken Fry. The club uses the York family secret recipe chicken bread-ing for their chicken to make this event extra special for participants!



Boy Scouts of Troop 142 helped SCAN make more progress on the brick sidewalk in Strasburg. Those involved were: Scouts: Nick Esslinger, Andrew Yakey, Jacob Gaugh, Dakota Shadwell, Mitch Esslinger, and Jason Becker (photographer). Scoutmaster Dave Whitt, Assistant Scoutmaster Randy Renner, and adult leaders Sherman Yakey, Tanya Walker and John Gaugh.

Strasburg Elevator keeps things moving

By Barb Ohnesorge

Strasburg's Elevator has been a part of Strasburg for years. The first location was the corner of South First and Chestnut St. The "old flour mill" as it was called back then. The elevator was ran by Don Webner and owned by William Yakey. The vacant lot is still there, but the elevator is now located at 102 South Spruce St. Webner built the current elevator known as the new Webner Elevator in 1968. Upon Don's retirement the elevator was purchased by Wayne Wirth, Ron Wirth, and Dan Ogle in 1982. Wayne and Ron still run the business; Dan left in 1989 to start his own business.

The Strasburg Elevator, as it's known today, is growing and changing. The Wirth's have added more bins, put in updated truck scales, they will be adding a new software system to upgrade the processing and save time.

The elevator has been a part of Strasburg for a long time. Some may or may not know what all the business offers. The elevator buys or stores grain from our local farmers corn, soy beans and wheat. They have three systems cash grain, grain storage and on the farm pick-up. Most of the grain goes to Farina or Decatur. On a good day the semi driver could get four loads in depending on the traveling time and wait time at the processors. The peak season is, of course, harvest. But the elevator stays busy all year round.

Strasburg Elevator has been going strong for almost 29 years; they have had several part-time drivers and employees. Revis Durbin full time driver has been with the company for 17 years. The Wirth's say they appreciate his dedication to the company.

The Wirth's also said they appreciate the loyal customers over the past years.

"We are happy to serve you and hope to continue serving the area," Wayne said. Give Ron or Wayne a call at 217-644-2266 for any grain processing questions.



The Strasburg Elevator has been in business 29 years.

A few more twins...

In the last edition of the Gnome News, Dorothy Stremming submitted an article with all the twins that have lived in Strasburg. Since the article has run, a few more have been submitted.

Cliff & Chris Cross
Katy & Beth Manhart
Payton & Makinley Durbin

Which is there more of: gnomes in Strasburg or members of the Facebook group "I know where Strasburg, Il is!" ????

Answer: Facebook with 600 members. At last count, there were 450 gnomes in Strasburg.

The Gnome News is Distributed by SCAN and the Village of Strasburg.



www.strasburgil.com

Do you have news or photos for the Gnome News?

New email address:
gnomenews@strasburgil.com
 Email this address if you wish to sign up to receive the Gnome News. The next issue will be Aug. 15. Submissions are due by the 10th.

Friendly reminder from the village board

It is unlawful for any person to burn at any time any garbage, rubber or highly odorous substances. Leaves, paper, brush or similar materials may be burned only until 3:30 p.m. Violators of this ordinance may be fined \$10 to \$500.

Village board meetings are the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month At 6:30 p.m. in the Community Building

A special thanks to Gnome News contributors:

- Karen Kull
- Eric Sutton
- Lisa Shumard-Shelton



Class of 2011 breaks high school record
By Jane Giertz

Something very unusual just happened at Stew-Stras High School. Yes, it is very hard to believe, and very surprising to all. This year the senior class had five valedictorians and they were all young men. The fact that they had five is a record, but all boys set another record. Each young man had a 5.0 average and all of them won several awards and scholarships. These five young men

are, pictured from left to right, Luke Rincker, son of Otto and Lisa Rincker; Lucas Helton, John Helton and Lisa Helton; Gabe Washer, son of Mark and Bev Wascher; Patrick Braden, son of Larry and Marla Braden; and Cody Locke, son of Scott and Natalie Locke. What an honor it was to attend the graduations for the class of 2011 and hear the combined speech that the five wrote together. It was serious, funny and entertaining to watch as they took turns reading the speech. Aside from the academic part of school, these boys were all involved in sports and or band.

Great big congratulations go out to these five young men for their outstanding work throughout their school years. Good luck to them in their future years at college and military and what other things they choose to do.

Thank you to their parents and teachers who helped and encouraged them. What a way to end a high school career!

Barb Dial named to Shelby County Crime Stoppers Board

Barb Dial recently joined the county Crime Stoppers Board. Crime Stoppers is a way for residents to assist local law enforcement agencies. Congratulations Barb and thank you for your efforts!

Reward offered for information on Strasburg Gnome thefts

Strasburg gnomes are being nabbed. SCAN is working with Shelby County Crime Stoppers to take a bite out of these crimes. The thefts have been reported to Shelby County detectives and will now be a Crime Stoppers "Crime of the Week." This means a person, who provides info that leads to an arrest is eligible to receive a cash reward. That person can remain anonymous. If you have any tips, report it as follows:

- Phone: 800-528-8477 (TIPS)
- Text: Text TIP478 and your message to 274637 (CRIMES)
- Web site: <http://shelbycountycrimestoppers.com/>



You're Invited to VBS!

When: June 27 - July 1

Where: St. Paul's Lutheran Church Strasburg

Time: 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Ages: 3-12

You can pick up registration forms and more info at Shortstop, St. Paul's, and Shelby County State Bank, or by phone or email:
bcwitt10@yahoo.com
 644-2621

Cookie Donations, Teachers, & Helper Volunteers Are Also Greatly Appreciated!

Courtney Wittenberg
 VBS Director 2011

