

"Gnome News is Good News!"

Gnome News



gnomenews@strasburgil.com • • www.strasburgil.com 50¢

April 2015

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat, Apr. 18—Cub Scout Pack 242 food drive
Mon, Apr. 20—Village Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Apr. 25&26—Vahling Vineyards Spring Fest
Wed, Apr 29—Seasoned Citizens on the road, 10 a.m.

Sat, May 2—Flower sale at the Park, 8-Noon
Sat, May 23—Town Wide

Rummage Sales, 7 a.m.

Sat, May 23—Poppy Day

Sat, May 23—Lions Club Tootsie

Pop Day

Thu, May 28—Strawberry Fest-Farmers Market kickoff, 4:30-6 p.m.

Fri, May 29—SSJHS graduation

Sun, May 31—SSHS graduation

Sun, Jun 7—Lions Club Chicken Fry, HS Band, LEO Club, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Mon, Jun 8—Community Services Blood Drive, Strasburg Community Center

July 10, 11 & 12—Lions Club Homecoming



Memos from Mayor Mike!

We are proud to announce the sale of a lot in York Acres to Jarod and Caralea Smith of Sullivan. The couple purchased the lot last month and plan to start construction in June. They hope to be moved in,

with their young son Reed, by Labor Day.

Jarod is originally from Cowden and Caralea is moving back to her hometown of Strasburg.

The Annual SCAN Flower Sale will be held on Saturday, May 2 at the part from 8 a.m. until noon. This year you will choose your flowers from the selection of live flowers available. You purchase what you like, while supplies last. There is no pre-ordering this year. This will give you a chance to see what colors and flowers appeal to you the most. Hopefully it will be a beautiful day, but if it rains, the event will be held on the following Saturday, May 9.

The Lions Club will be hosting its annual chicken fry dinner...cont. on p. 2

Reminder that the printed copy of the Gnome News is 50¢.

Your donation will help cover printing costs. Please deposit in the cans at the Shelby County State Bank or Short Stop, or pay Linda at the Village Office.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT !

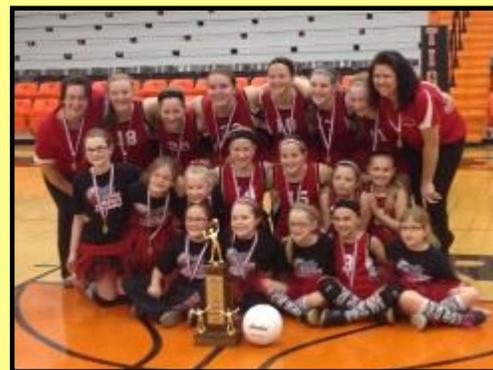
Trinity Stewardson has undefeated season and wins SIJHSAA state championship volleyball tournament in Herrin

Trinity Cardinals brought home the SIJHSAA (Southern Illinois Jr. High State Athletic Association) State Champion title for the second year in row! The Cardinals traveled to Herrin March 28th, and began play against St. Bruno of Pinckneyville. The Cardinals won out over St. Bruno 25-7 and 25-11. Up next, the Cardinals beat St. Mark's of Steeleville 25-18 and 25-18. In the semi-finals Trinity faced down St. Theresa of Belleville 25-14 and 25-17. For the state title match, Trinity was up against All Saints Academy of Breese. While the Breese team brought physical size to the court, Trinity, as always, brought quiet determination and skill. The Cardinals came out strong with the first set, 25-12. Breese regrouped and put up a strong effort during the second match. The Cardinals played together as a team and regained the lead to win 25-23. The team finished the season 25-0. SIJHSAA was founded in 1921.

SIJHSAA has a 3 class system, based on school population. Classes L (large), M (medium) and S (small). Like IESA, member institutions are a mix of public and parochial junior high schools.

Team Roster:

Calla Roney - 8th Grade
Megan Schlechte - 8th Grade
Jocelyn Schultz - 8th Grade
Martina Gratz - 7th Grade
Rachel Kessler - 7th Grade
Claire Moomaw - 7th Grade
Mariah Caudill - 6th Grade
Anna Schlechte - 6th Grade
Hannah Weaver - 5th Grade
Marisa Daniels - 3rd Grade
Isabelle Gratz - 3rd Grade
Ella Kinkelaar - 3rd Grade
Halle Moomaw - 3rd Grade
Jasmine Shafer - 3rd Grade
Gabby Vonderheide - 3rd Grade
Addie Wernsing - 3rd Grade
Kari Beitz - 2nd Grade
Alaira Friese - 2nd Grade
Brenna Musson - 2nd Grade
Kinley Quast - 2nd Grade



Front row, left to right: Marisa Daniels, Jasmine Shafer, Alaira Friese, Ella Kinkelaar and Kary Beitz.

Middle: Halle Moomaw, Hannah Weaver, Isabelle Granz, Anna Schlechte, Mariah Caudill, Gabby Vonderheide and Addie Wernsing.

Back: Assistant Jamie Brown, Rachel Kessler, Jocelyn Schultz, Calla Roney, Megan Schlechte, Claire Moomaw, Martina Gratz and Coach Ronda Schlechte.

Congratulations Trinity Cardinals!

The Village Corner

105 E Commercial St.
PO Box 385
Strasburg, IL 62465
Phone 217-644-3007
Email: info@strasburgil.com

The Village Board meets on the third Monday of the month. Time of the meeting is 6:30 p.m. Individuals interested in addressing the Board should notify the Clerk's Office by the Wednesday prior to the meeting date.

Cardboard recycling available in bins next to the water tower.



www.strasburgil.com

Send your news, pictures, dates and info to gnomenews@strasburgil.com

Your Village Board - President
Michael Antonacci

Trustees: Jack Clark, Shane Corley, Cinda Held, Anita Renshaw, Charles Wade

SCOUTS FOOD DRIVE April 18

Please help your local Cub Scout Pack 242 by donating non-perishable food items. All donations will go to the local food pantries. If you recently received a white bag on your front door, that's the bag you can fill up, or use any plastic bag you have.

We will pick it up Saturday, April 18 between 10 a.m.

and noon. Please contact Doug Holland 217-821-3408 or Doug Greuel 217-804-0299 with any questions.

Thank you for supporting your local Cub Scouts!



Mike Cont. from Page 1

...on Sunday, June 7 beginning at 4 p.m. The Lions Club has been producing delicious chicken on the first Sunday in June for well over forty years now and will be breaking in their new fryers this year.

Village elections last week saw the return of several village officials. I was elected to two more years as village president, and three incumbent village trustees were also elected. Shane Corley was elected to a two year term; Cinda Held and Jack Clark were each elected to a four year term. The board would like to welcome back as a village trustee Alice Jeisy who was elected to a four year term. Alice served as a trustee previously under former mayor Jim Connell.

To complete the board Trustees Chuck Wade and Anita Renshaw have two years remaining on their four year terms. The board currently meets the third Monday of every month.

The board has been discussing and acting on various topics. They have awarded the administration of the \$450,000 CDAP Grant to Milano and Grunloh Engineers of Effingham. Bids for the project will be going out later in the year, with the awarding of the bids later this year. Construction of new water lines and water meters will probably begin next spring.

A financial study has been completed that shows that it would be slightly less expensive for the village to purchase water as it would be to produce it ourselves with our aging water plant.

Information has been received regarding the possible cut to funding to municipalities with the new State of Illinois budget. The possibility is that the village could lose as much as 50 percent of the funding it receives from the State of Illinois. The board does have a full plate to study.

Let's all keep STRASBURG RIGHT! IN THE MIDDLE OF EVERYTHING!

The story of poppy day

The Poppy was first chosen as The American Legion's memorial flower at the 1921 National Convention and was worn in memory of the men who lost their lives in World War I.

The one bright color on the shell torn fields and hills of these war-torn areas was the little red Poppy. On the edges of the trenches, in the ragged shell holes, brave little Poppies grew and bloomed on the graves of those men buried in the sacred plots of French soil, which was Flanders Field. Remembrances of the cheery bright red flowers returned to America with our boys. And so, the Poppy became the symbol of the dead, their memorial flower. It became the sign that the high ideals for which these brave young men gave their lives, still live and are honored.



All money taken in over expenses is returned to the Veterans and their families through the Auxiliary's program. Each year millions of Americans wear little red poppies in memory of those who have died in all wars and to assist in the rehabilitation of those Veterans who are now hospitalized suffering from wounds and illness. They are distributed by unpaid volunteers on Poppy Day. Please remember by wearing a Poppy!

The Strasburg American Legion Auxiliary Unit #289's Poppy Day is May 23. Volunteers will be located at the bank, post office and Marathon Station. Proceeds from Poppy Day have been used for the Mattoon VA Outpatient Clinic and Illiana VA (Danville).

Please help support our veterans.

**York Acres Lot Sold!
Welcome to Jared and Caralea Smith new owners of Lot # 5, known as 2 York Drive**



Easter Bunny visits Strasburg

The 61st Annual East Egg Hunt sponsored by Liberty Unit #289 of the American Legion Auxiliary was held Saturday, April 4, 2015 with 56 children ages toddler through Third Grade participating.

Parents, Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles thoroughly enjoyed watching each group as they looked for the candy that the Easter Bunny had left in the grass at the Strasburg Community Park. The first group to search was the 21 toddler through 3 year olds. Auxiliary members weren't sure who had more fun, the children or the parents! When all the candy was found in that area, then the hunt moved on to the 4 and 5 year old age group. The 17 children in that group filled their sacks, baskets, buckets with the various varieties of candy that the Easter Bunny had left. After finding the last few pieces of candy it was time for the 14 children in the 6 and 7 year old age group. It didn't take them long to scour the grass to find every piece of candy and eggs that the Easter bunny had left. Finally the 4 8 year olds through 3rd grade group showed the others how it was done! Within a couple of minutes the grass was bare of any goodies that were there. Each child came away with lots of candy to share with their parents and siblings!



Special thanks to Percy Evolution Martial Arts for the donation of 80 plastics eggs filled with candy.

The members of the American Legion Auxiliary wish to thank the community for their support of this annual event, and look forward to seeing the children again next year.

SPRING FESTIVAL
AT VAHLING VINEYARDS
APRIL 25 & 26, 2015
 Sat. 10:00am - 7:00pm, Sun. 12:00pm - 6:00pm

Taste Over 60 Wines
Advance Tickets are just
\$12.50

Advance tickets available online!
 Visit www.vahlingvineyards.com

UNTIL
 APRIL 23, 2015

\$15 Admittance Fee at the Gate

Featuring 7 Wineries

Berryville Vineyards • Castle Finn Winery • Fox Creek Vineyards
 Lasata Winery • Vahling Vineyards • Niernerg Family Winery
 • Sleepy Creek Winery

Food Vendors Include: Corn Dogs, Hamburgers, Rib Eye, Shake Ups, French Fries, Pizza, Kettle Corn, Fudge, Funnel Fries, Slushy's, Coffee, Donuts, Cupcakes. A Variety of Vendors: Jewelry, Soap, Crafts, Pottery, Woodwork, Fire Pits, Man Stuff and More...

Kiddy Corner: Face painting, Sandy Candy, Ring Toss
Live Music: Marty & Heather
 Sat. 12:30 pm - 3:30pm
 Concordia
 Philip, Kathleen & Rebecca
 Sat. 4:00pm - 7:00pm
 Russ Howard
 Sun. 12:00pm - 2:30pm
 Steely James from Nashville, TN
 Sun. 3:00pm - 6:00pm

Located 1 ¼ Miles
 West of Rt. 32
 on Road 400 North
 Stewardson, IL
 217-682-5409

VAHLING
Vineyards

Tennis Anyone? Summer League Forming

The Strasburg Tennis League will soon begin again. Members play on Tuesday evenings in the park from the first Tuesday in June through August. If you would like to get on the schedule or be a sub, email Kathy Vogel at kathyvogel@hotmail.com or text her at 217-259-6096.



New players are always welcome and encouraged, as well as those who have played with us in the past. It is good exercise and lots of fun!

Summer Girls Softball

Girls ages 5-12 are eligible to play in the summer softball program. There are four leagues: t-ball (ages 5-6), coach pitch (ages 7-8), Okaw Tues/Fri (ages 9-10) and Okaw Mon/Wed (ages 11-12). For more information contact Bob Schlechte 217-259-8277 or Kurt Friese 217-460-0215.

Reminder from the Village

Your assistance is requested...please note that the only items that can be taken to the sewer lagoon for disposal are grass clippings, shrub clippings and tree limbs (cut to manageable lengths). As per the EPA there is to be no dumping at the lagoon of mattresses, garbage, plastics, appliances, wooden shipping crates, buildings that have been torn down, etc.



Strasburg Lions Club

For nearly 100 years, Lions have served their communities and impacted millions of people around the world. In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Lions Clubs International, local clubs are asked to help reach the Centennial Service Challenge goal of serving 100 million people by June 30th, 2018. Each club can earn a Centennial Banner Patch with a special gemstone design each year they sponsor a Global Service Action project impacting Youth, Vision, Hunger and the Environment. A club can earn a diamond-level Centennial Banner Patch by participating in all four Global Service Action Campaigns.



Your Strasburg Lions Club was presented the Diamond Level Centennial Service Challenge Banner Patch at the recent District 1-L Convention. The award was presented to Strasburg Lions President Lion Jim Weiss by International Director Lion Jack Epperson and District 1-L Governor Lion Bill Haselhorst. This is the highest award a club can receive in the Centennial Service Challenge. The Strasburg Lions were the only club in the District presented this award at this time. This award is very prestigious for the club and indicates the dedication the Strasburg Lions have in serving on the local community level, on the state level, and on the International level. Congratulations to all the Strasburg Lions for their service.



High School LEO Club Forms. Pictured front row L-R: Yessica Alvarado, Jackie Blythe, Cora Chowning, Milah Chowning, Olivia Wilson. **Middle row:** Lion Jim Weiss, Luke Porter, Austin Rincker, Marcail Clark, Summer Durbin, Cassandra Weeden, Lindsey Snell. **Back row:** Nicholas Burton, Mark Jones, Alex Walden, DG Lion Kevin Mendenhall 1-M, ID Lion Bill McKinney, DG Lion Bill Haselhorst 1-L, Lion Van Stone, LIF. Missing was member Haley Williams and LEO Advisor Justin Krile.

Saturday, May 23

Strasburg Town Wide Rummage Sales

Beginning in May, sign up at the post office to host a rummage sale

"Flea Market at the Crib"

Rt. 32 on north edge of Strasburg, at the Lenz Farm

Edwards Crafts Customer Appreciation

308 Pine St.

Rummage Sale starting at 7 a.m. * Free lunch served 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Strasburg volunteers attend IIRA conference in Peoria

Lisa Rincker, Michael Antonacci and Gary and Karen Kull, members of the Strasburg Community Action Network and/or the Village Board attended the 26th Annual Rural Community Economic Development Conference in Peoria in March. The conference is sponsored by the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs from Western Illinois University. The conference featured community development strategies and innovative practices applicable to rural areas. Lisa Rincker was pleased with the event, "This was the first year I attended the conference and I ended up with several pages of ideas to incorporate into our village events."



L-R: Lisa Rincker, Karen Kull, Gary Kull and Michael Antonacci

Conference fees were funded by SCAN and a micro-grant from the Southeastern Illinois Community Foundation.



Deep fried chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, applesauce, bread, drinks

Dine In-or-Carry Out

6:30 p.m. Stewardson-Strasburg High School Band will perform classic rock and pop hits from the various decades. So bring your lawn chair and enjoy!

The new high school LEO Club will be selling deserts



"WE SERVE"

Why did the chicken cross the road?

To get to the

Lions Club Chicken Fry, of course!

Sunday, June 7,

4:30-7:30 p.m.

Strasburg Park

Seasoned Citizens Meet in March

Submitted by Jane Giertz

March 25 was another great day for the 28 Seasoned Citizens that met in the Strasburg Community Center. The meeting was opened by the group saying the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a prayer of grace before the meal.

It was a "Spud-tacular" day, and as usual the baked potatoes were done to perfection and several people brought toppings for them. Following the meal, Linda Oakley, the Village Clerk, reported on SCAN's flower sale to be held May 2 from 8-Noon in the park and reminded everyone of the school board election on April 7.

Jerry Maddox gave the tip of the day to cut old rubber boots off and make garden shoes out of them. He had a pair that he had made. The door prize, a shamrock plant, gum, candy and cookies, was won by Betty Mahnke.

March was "Show and Tell." Yes, seniors do enjoy showing their stuff such as Carolyn Stremming and her great grandmother's teddy bear, Kay Adams and her handmade doll called Peggy. Betty Mahnke had a big box of Indian beads she has found over the years,

Terry Thomas showed his Indian arrowhead collection, and one of his pieces was an ax that is 6,000 to 7,000 years old. Marie Tate shared her matchbook collection, Rex Forman showed his farm machinery, a cotton picker, a corn harvester and a tractor. Charlie Doehring shared some of his projects, including a wheelbarrow planter and a coat rack made with door knobs. Bob Adams shared a painting of a dog that he has done in oils. Everyone who participated enjoyed showing their items such as Jane Giertz' laser pointer and her diamond earrings. There was a story behind each person's collection. Larry Giertz shared a story of trying to purchase the glass he brought for "Show and Tell." He got it in Belgium and tried for a long time to talk to the girl about buying it only to find out that she spoke perfect English. We do have a lot of fun and laugh a lot.

Seasoned Citizens on the road in April

Meet at Community Center April 29 at 10 a.m.

Carpool to Gays to see the two story outhouse, then on to Charleston to have lunch and visit the Lincoln Douglas Debate Museum, and end the day with a visit to the Adams Memorials to see how a tombstone is made.

STEW-STRAS ALUMNI BANQUET MAY 23, 2015

The annual Stew-Stras alumni banquet is scheduled for Saturday, May 23, at the Stewardson-Strasburg High School Gym located at 2806 E 600 North Rd, Strasburg, IL. The theme of this year's banquet is "Celebrating Pride & Progress -Let's Party!"

Social hour begins at 5 PM followed by a Culver's catered dinner at 6 PM. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Tickets are available for purchase until May 18 at Prairie National Bank in Stewardson and Shelby County State Bank in Strasburg. To reserve advance tickets, call Sheila Renner at 217-682-5580.

Following the business meeting and presentation of awards, entertainment will be at 7 PM with a skit "Remote Control" written by the late Noberta Renshaw and directed by her daughter Anita Renshaw. A zany cast of S-S alumni characters will delight & entertain you!

The committee is seeking nominees for the Outstanding Alumnus and Distinguished Service Awards. The Outstanding Alumnus award is presented to an Alumni who graduated at least 10 years ago from either Stewardson, Strasburg, or Stewardson - Strasburg High Schools, or who has obtained a GED credited to the S-S School District and achieved success in her or her chosen field. The Distinguished Service award is presented to an individual with a minimum of 5 years of employment with the district and shown favorable portrayal of district goals. Nomination letters should address the criteria described for each award respectively. Additionally the letters of nomination should be signed and contain contact information for the nominating party which would include; telephone, mailing address, and e-mail address. Letters of nomination should be mailed to Stew-Stras Alumni Awards c/o Chris Debolt 60 N 2700 East Road Stewardson, IL 62463. Nominations must be received by May 1, 2015 for consideration.

Reunions are encouraged and welcomed at the banquet. Please call Chris Debolt at 217-690-0890 with questions. We look forward to seeing you at this year's banquet!

COMING SOON!

Strasburg Farmers Market

will begin with

Strawberry Fest

May 28, 4:30-6 p.m.

Community Building

Parking Lot

Strawberry Shortcake for sale!



Farmers Market
May 28-Sept.
\$2 booth space

SCAN booth will accept baked goods or produce donations

For information phone

Patsy Lenz 644-2267

Laura Dollarhide 644-3122

or email Cinda Held at

sportmama_98@yahoo.com

Plan to stop by each week!

In Memory of...

Robert Kenneth (Bob) Warnick

11-15-1952 - 2-18-2015

Bob Warnick of Strasburg was born in Decatur, and graduated from Lakeview High School. He was retired from a warehousing position. He enjoyed fishing and his 1971 Red Plymouth Duster. He leaves behind his wife Kathy, daughter Amy and sons John and Brandon.



We remember former residents:

Susan (Stremming) Nichols, Bethany

9-16-1952 - 3-24-2015, 1970 graduate of SSSH, daughter of Delbert and Doris Stremming of Strasburg.

Marilyn Berniece (Baumgarten) Buesking, Effingham

6-8-1927-3-13-2015, member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and former teacher at SSSH.

ENTRANTS SOUGHT FOR MISS SHELBY COUNTY AND JUNIOR MISS SHELBY COUNTY PAGEANTS

The Shelby County Pageant Committee is seeking contestants for their upcoming 2015 Miss Shelby County and Junior Miss Shelby County Pageants. All young women aged 16-21 and residing within Shelby County or attending Shelby County schools are encouraged to compete for the title of Miss Shelby County. Contestants will be judged in the following areas: interview, swimsuit, evening gown, speech, and "People's Choice" award. The winner will reign over the Shelby County Fair and will represent Shelby County at local and state events as well as competing in the Illinois Fair Queen Pageant to be held in January of 2016.

Additionally, young women who are in 6th, 7th, or 8th grades within a Shelby County school are eligible to compete for Junior Miss Shelby County Fair. Junior Miss contestants will be judged in the following areas: interview, personal introduction, casual wear, party dress, and "People's Choice" award. The winner will reign over the Shelby County Fair and will represent Shelby County along with the Miss Shelby County pageant winner.

Interested contestants are invited to attend our informational meeting to be held at 5:00pm on Thursday, May 21st at the Shelby Christian Church in Shelbyville. For additional information, please contact Pageant Director Sara Long at 217-821-7384.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! ALL PRINCESSES OF THE SHELBY COUNTY KINGDOM ARE INVITED TO A ROYAL READING EVENT! Date: Saturday, April 25 TIME: 10 - 10:45 am Place: Shelbyville Public Library

Her majesty Miss Shelby County, Baylee Quast, and her Junior Miss Shelby County, Lainee Turner, invite their royal subjects to a princess reading event! Both queens will be reading princess story books and the attendees will have the opportunity to color princess pictures and have their photos taken with the queens. Tiaras, gowns, and wands are encouraged but not necessary! For additional information contact:

Shelbyville Public Library at 774-4432 or Sara Long at 821-7384



American Red Cross
Blood Drive
Monday April 20,
2:00-6:00 p.m.
Stewardson
Community
Building.

SCAN Tea with a Princess
Local queens Baylee Quast, Olivia Telgmann, Rachel Kessler, Marcaill Clark hosted a tea and the movie Enchanted with several local "princesses" recently at Grace Church.

SCAN Flower Sale PRICE LIST

Bedding Plants, 4 per box, \$1.50- <i>Alyssum, Coleus, Impatiens, Marigold, Petunia, Salvia, Vegetables</i>	4.5"pot, \$3.50- <i>Sweet Potato Vine,</i> plus Green House Choice Plants
Petunias, wave types 1 per box, \$2.00	Zonal Geraniums, 4.5"pot, \$4.00- <i>red, salmon, white, fuchsia, pink</i> (may not have all colors)
Filler Plants, 3.5"pot, \$3.00- <i>Asparagus Fern, Dracaena Spike, Vinca Vine</i>	Green House Choice-- Hanging Baskets- 10"pot, \$15.00 Decorative Combination Pots- 11.5"pot, \$17.00

Saturday, May 2
8 a.m. to NOON
Strasburg Park

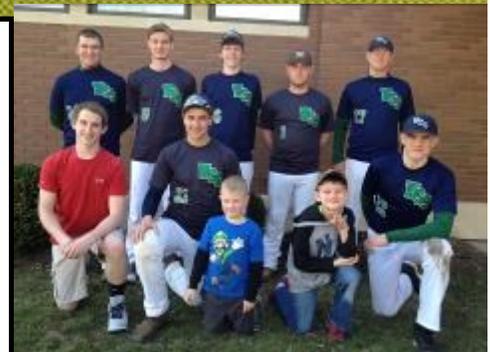
SCAN will not be taking orders before the sale

STRASBURG
Right! IN THE MIDDLE OF EVERYTHING



SCAN Team Movie Night

Local JV and Varsity baseball and basketball players pitched a party recently with snacks and the movie Million Dollar Arm. Team boys are Dylan Ohnesorge, Ted Kessler, Mark Jones, Jacob Kramer, Isaac Kramer, Chandler Ballinger, Collin Ohnesorge, attendees Grady and Garrett, and Christian Kessler.



Thanks to the SCAN Youth Committee for organizing these events!



Tracking through Strasburg's history—The Final Chapter Part 6 (one more edition left)

By Brad Friese

The communities and people of Effingham County that had been served by the Wabash Railway Company fought a long and hard fight and lost. The communities and people of Shelby County that were still served by the Wabash Railway Company had to see the writing on the wall, it was just a matter of time when their battle would begin. There wasn't anything more appealing about the 24 miles of track and right-of-way in Shelby County than there was in the 23 miles of track the Wabash abandoned in Effingham County. Stewardson, was now the southern terminus of the Wabash's 8th District. It had a freight interchange with the Nickel Plate Road and a wye allowing the train from the north to turn around when returning, instead of backing up 12 miles to Windsor. The Yakey Meat Packing house was already taking advantage of the improved road system and owned a fleet of trucks to haul their products. There were hay barns in Stewardson, Herborn, Strasburg and Windsor, but hay was no longer the commodity it was when teams of horses were what powered the vehicles in the cities of Decatur and Chicago, the advent of the gasoline engine had greatly decreased the need for hay. Windsor had the better facilities and a freight interchange with the "Big Four" or CCC&StL railroad, but was located in the middle of the 24 miles between Stewardson and Sullivan. When Shumway was abandoned by the Wabash, they left behind much better facilities than were at Stewardson or Windsor. Wabash assets listed for Shumway were a depot with two platforms, two stock pens, one with one chute, the other with two, a hand car house, an engine house, coal chute and most importantly a water tank. There was also a railroad pond and an ice house, where in the winter ice was cut into 3 foot blocks, packed in sawdust and stored in the ice house. The ice was used by the railroad when fresh produce and other perishables needed to stay fresh for the long haul to Chicago. In the steam locomotive era of railroading, water was very important and a real necessity to keep operating. Before the abandonments, the 8th District had a water tank at Bement, one 23 miles south in Sullivan and one at Shumway, 30 miles south of Sullivan. With the Shumway tank eliminated, once a south-bound crew filled the locomotive's water tender at Sullivan, they would have to make a 50 miles round trip before filling up again at Sullivan. This meant that when the crews switched train cars, picked up or delivered freight it had to be done with a minimum layover time, since the steam locomotive ran constantly using water and coal while moving or setting on a siding. There were two physical features on the section of track between Stewardson and Sullivan that the Wabash wanted to eliminate; the rickety timber bridge over the Okaw (Kaskaskia) River, east of Fox Harbor, between Sullivan and Bruce, and the long time troublesome Turner Hill, north of Strasburg. As of Saturday, February 20 the Wabash was no longer responsible for carrying the U.S. Mail after they lost the contract to truck mail delivery, which was another "nail in the coffin" for the communities served by the railroad. The new "Star Route" mail service was awarded to Homer R. Iler of Sullivan and started Tuesday, February 23, between Effingham and Sullivan. Iler and his "mail" automobile would go to Effingham's Union Railroad Station at 7:00 a.m. where he would get the U.S. Mail from the Illinois Central train due at 7:10 a.m. He would wait for the mail train if the train was late, but not later than 8:40 a.m. If the train was on time he would leave at about 7:20 a.m. and arrive at Sullivan two hours later, at about 9:20 a.m. The on-time schedule was Shumway, Stewardson 8:08 a.m., Strasburg, Windsor 8:45 a.m. Bruce and Sullivan. Times for Shumway, Strasburg and Bruce were not given on the bulletin. Returning, Iler left Sullivan at 3:30 p.m., serving the same post offices, arriving at Windsor about 4:05 p.m., Stewardson 4:42 p.m., and Effingham at 5:30 p.m. Service was bulletined to start February 22, but that was Washington's Birthday and a holiday. All classes of mail except registered mail was carried. Because of heavy mail delivery, Iler had to attach a trailer to his car. He was allowed to carry passengers and freight, although he could hardly accommodate them on account of the big mail load. The route was covered every day except Sunday and holidays. The "hammer" finally fell on Stewardson, Herborn, Strasburg, Windsor and Bruce when on Monday, October 17, 1938 it was reported from Washington, D.C. that authorization to abandon the branch line of the Wabash Railway from Stewardson to Sullivan was given by the Interstate Commerce Commission, service would be discontinued on Thursday, November 10 under authority granted the railroad by the I.C.C. Wabash officials reported that the rails on abandoned section would be removed in the fall and winter. Instead of fighting the Wabash and pleading to the I.C.C., which was a forlorn proposition for the communities in Effingham County, local authorities tried to make a deal with the Wabash's competition, the Chicago & Eastern Illinois railroad (C&EI). The following article is from the Thursday, November 3, 1938 edition of THE STRASBURG HERALD.

"RAILROAD TO CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME"

"By invitation of the Strasburg Chamber of Commerce several officials of the C&EI Railroad met with shippers of Strasburg, Stewardson and Windsor at the town hall at Strasburg Wednesday afternoon."

"It is too early to state what the outcome of the meeting will be but we understand that the Wabash has made an application for operating this part of the road for another 30 days until negotiations of some sort can be completed. It appears that the road will continue to give freight service."

The Herald article was very optimistic, to say the least, It is hard to imagine what the three town's shippers could have offered the C&EI to make it profitable for them to purchase and maintain the 24 miles of track in Shelby County. The C&EI already operated over 40 miles of track and right-of-way in the county, these tracks are now property of the Union Pacific Railroad.

...cont. on P. 8

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Esthetics by Crystal Sphar

*Customized Facials
Diamond Microdermabrasion
Dermaplaning
Peels
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Waxing*

\$10 Off

One Facial Treatment

Expires June 30, 2015

Business Hours

Tuesday 9 AM - 5:00 PM
Wednesday 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Thursday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Dimensions Salon & Spa
105 N Keller Dr
Effingham

217-347-6651



STRASBURG FEED MILL

(217) 644-2242

Chad Conder, Manager



Alan and Gary Bridges

- Kent Feeds
- Custom Blended Horse Feeds
- Farm Gates & Feed Bunks
- Custom Feed Grinding & Mixing

Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thurs & Sat 7:30 a.m. - Noon

Tracking cont. from P. 7 The C&EI interchanged with the Wabash at Sullivan, preceded southwest to the Findlay cut, where the west line ran through Pana. The southern line continued through Shelby County to Shelbyville, Clarksburg, Mode and crossed the Shelby-Effingham county line at Holland and on to Altamont. Purchasing the Stewardson to Sullivan branch of the Wabash would have been a repetition of what the C&EI already owned with no additional interchanges with other railroads and not enough additional business to justify the cost. After 64 years of rail service from the Wabash and its predecessors, the villages of Bruce and Strasburg would be left without a railhead.