

New Strawn Notes

February/March 2015

Easter Egg Hunt is April 4

New Strawn Community Improvement Organization (NSCIO) will hold their annual Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 4 at the New Strawn Community Building. This event is for children up to age 11 and it is always a huge success and well attended. Last year, the Easter Bunny made an appearance and was available to pose for pictures with the kids.

If you would like to donate candy for this event, you may drop it off

at City Hall. Or, if you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Brenda Klubek at (620) 364-5210, Jeri Carpenter at (620) 364-2406 or Robert Harkrader at (620) 364-8078. Stuffing hundreds of eggs with candy and prizes takes some time and they always welcome more helping hands.

NSCIO would also like to sincerely thank all those who helped with the Halloween Party or donated candy. The event was a huge success and the hayrack rides were enjoyed by all.

Animal tags are due

It's time to renew your animal licenses for the year. If it slipped your mind in January, that's okay. The fees through the end of February are \$4.00 for a spayed or neutered animal and \$10.00 for unsplayed or neutered pets. The fee will go up again the first of March to \$8.00 for spayed/neutered animals and \$20.00 for unfixed animals.

As a reminder, it is unlawful for the owner of any previously registered dog or cat to fail to maintain current registration of such dog or cat. A newly acquired animal over six months of age must be registered within 30 days from acquisition or bringing the animal into the city. A fine of up to \$100 can be imposed on violators.

Remember to bring a copy of a

current rabies immunization record. If the immunization record does not indicate whether the animal has been spayed or neutered, please bring a certificate or receipt showing proof of the procedure. The benefits of registering your animal include having a record of the description of your animal in the event it is found at-large. The city will make every attempt to contact you if your animal is found and can be identified by the information on file, before surrendering the animal to the Burlington Animal Shelter. If you simply can't make it into City Hall to take care of tagging your pet(s), you can drop the appropriate payment and documentation in our night drop box and your tags will be mailed to you.

CITY CLERK'S NOTES

By Kerry Templeton

New Strawn City Clerk

The Wolf Creek outage is just about to get underway and our little community (and county) is once again experiencing a population explosion. Folks have rented out rooms in their homes, or their entire house, to out-of-town workers and camp sites and RV parks are overflowing with campers.

I know the extra traffic and longer lines at the checkout counters can be a hassle, and sometimes our visiting friends can "let loose" a little too much for our liking, but I try and remember that they are here to do a job. And, their hard-earned dollars spent in the county is certainly a boost to many businesses during this period.

I also try to keep in mind that most of them are some of the nicest, friendliest, down-to-earth people you will meet. I've already been promised some rabbit gumbo by one such migrant worker and, I gotta tell you, the way she described it, I can hardly wait to try it. How often do you have complete strangers offering to cook dinner for you?

So, yes, the traffic is terrible and, yes, the grocery store is always busy

now and, yes, some of my neighbors get a little loud on their days off, but ... in 60 or so days, we'll forget they were ever here; except for the gentleman who likes to ride wheelies on his motorcycle in front of my house. I'll probably remember him for a while. The verdict's still out on the rabbit gumbo, but I'll let you know how that works out for me.

As I write this latest installment of my musings as your city clerk, there is a bit of snow on the ground and predictions of more for the week-end. That pesky groundhog was right (again), it seems. Thankfully, our streets are kept cleaned off and treated for winter conditions diligently by our city guys, Ron and Steven, who sometimes work late at night or in the wee hours of the morning to ensure we can all make it to work. If you see them out and about, be sure and thank them for a job well done. Parking along the streets during the winter months is not such a great idea (especially if snow or ice is in the forecast), because it impedes the process and that big old snowplow can be a "beast" to maneuver.

Remember, spring is just a few short weeks away!

Credit cards now accepted

We are happy to announce that we can now accept credit card payments. The KanPay system is up and running and we can process Mastercard, VISA, Discover, American Express, debit and gift cards. You will be assessed an additional 2.5 percent per transaction, if you choose to pay by credit card. So, if you are paying \$100, you will be charged an additional \$2.50. This fee does NOT go to the city. It is the amount charged by KS.gov for processing the payments. Eventually, there will be a link on our website that will allow you to pay online with a credit card or an E-check, but that option is not currently available. However, you can pay over the phone, or over the counter at City Hall. We hope by adding this service we can make paying your bill a bit more hassle-free.

Strawnfest 2015

Plans are being made for Strawnfest, but a definitive date has not yet been chosen. Several different activities and ideas have been discussed, including the possibility of combining the Strawnfest activities with a fireworks display and setting a date later in June. The need for some volunteers to help with the event this year was also discussed, so don't be surprised if someone calls you and asks if you can lend a helping hand. Any and ALL suggestions and/or help will be much appreciated!

Post Office Hours

Lobby hours are Monday-Friday:
9:30 a.m. to noon; 2-4 p.m.
Saturday: 9:30 to 11 a.m.

City Hall Hours

Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to noon; 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Contact City Hall

Phone (620) 364-8283
Fax: (620) 364-5110
Email: newstrawncityclerk@embarqmail.com
Web: www.newstrawn.org

More useful information for residents

TROUT HAVE ARRIVED: New Strawn City Lake has recently been stocked with a little over 700 rainbow and golden trout, ranging in length from eight to more than 16 inches and weighing in at an average of more than three-quarters pound each. Also, at least eight Moby trout lunkers are waiting to be caught, ranging in weight from 3 to 8 pounds.

A city fishing license is required to fish in the City Lake and you will also need to purchase a trout stamp if you're hoping to catch your daily creel limit of two. There is a No Catch and Release provision in effect for our trout as, once they have been hooked, they will die.

City fishing licenses and trout stamps are available at New Strawn City Hall, Strawn Lumber, Casey's General Store and Coffey County Honda. The cost for USD 244 (Burlington and New Strawn area) residents is: Adult - \$10, Youth - \$4. Fishing enthusiasts living outside of USD 244 will pay \$15 for an adult license and \$6 for youth. Anyone over the age of 16 must also possess a state fishing license.

We encourage anyone who snags a "big one" to bring it by City Hall, so we can snap a picture and display your whopper for bragging rights. Or, take a picture and email it to City Hall: newstrawncityclerk@embarqmail.com.

LAWN OF THE MONTH: The council chose Jim and Illa Weeks' fantastic Christmas light display at 536 N. Arrowhead Drive as "Lawn of the Month" for December. Their festive and holiday-themed décor drew much attention from passersby. Gary and Sue Haehn also had a magical lawn filled full of Christmas cheer, including an ice skating pond and life-sized Santa, as did Terry and Mary Ballengee and Jim and Wendy Kuras. Thanks to all of you who "decked your halls" and helped make New Strawn sparkle during the holidays!

CITY BURN PILE: Now that the new camper sites are being utilized at Wolf Creek Resorts, folks will need to start utilizing the new burn pile site at the north end of Sorg Street. If you are unfamiliar with where Sorg Street is and how to get to the new site, it's off of Decker Street in the south end of town and runs to the north. As a reminder, the city burn pile is for trees, limbs and other "woody" plants. Lumber CANNOT be burned and is not permitted to be added to the burn pile. The City also has a compost site behind the City Shop and it is for your garden waste, lawn clippings and leaves only.

LOCAL COMPANY NAMED BUSINESS OF THE YEAR: Congratulations to Skillman Construction, LLC, for recently being named the American Business Magazine's 2014 Business of the Year winner. Established in 1989, Skillman Construction is a Certified Women-Owned Business in the state of Kansas and, over the years, has grown and developed into a well-respected excavating/construction contractor for residential and commercial clients. We are so proud and happy that New Strawn has "bragging rights" to say this award-winning business is part of our community. Congratulations to Jo and Mike Skillman, president and vice president of the company, respectively, and to their team of experienced personnel for this latest achievement!

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE! Remember to vote in the City/School General Election on Tuesday, April 7. Two seats are up for election on the New Strawn City Council and the Mayor position. Three candidates filed for the two council seats by the noon deadline on Jan. 27: Jim Weeks, Gary Haehn and Jeff Chandler. Current council members Walter Railey and Doug Hauff will be vacating their seats at the first meeting following the election, which will be in May. These two gentlemen served the City well during their terms and we thank them for their service to our community.

There was only one filing for the mayor position: current sitting mayor Mark Petterson chose to run again. New Strawn residents will vote at the Community Center and polls will be open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. You don't have to wait until April 7 to vote. Advance voting is available at the Coffey County Clerk's office at the Coffey County Courthouse in Burlington. Call the clerk's office (620) 364-2191 for more information.

MEETING NOTIFICATIONS: The public is always welcome to attend all city council and city planning meetings. Business is conducted in the open. While the public generally does not participate in meeting business, a portion of the meeting is designated for public comments. The city will notify individuals of any governing body meetings if requested to do so. If you would like to be on the notification list, please contact the city clerk and provide her with your name, phone number, mailing address and/or email address. If you have been on a past list, you must renew your request annually in January.

NEW BUSINESS IN TOWN: New

Strawn has a new business in town; This & That Custom Upholstery, owned by Holly Peters, opened at 115 N. Main St., shortly after the New Year, and is going strong. The business specializes in boat, vehicle and household upholstery and their work is top quality. We are extremely pleased to welcome Holly and her new business to town!

COUNTY BICYCLE RECYCLING PROGRAM: As a reminder, the county is accepting old bikes, any size and any condition, for their bicycle recycling program. Bicycles can be dropped off at your local fire station or set out with your trash for pick-up. You can also call (620) 364-2191 and let them know that you have a bike for the program and someone will come and pick it up for you.

TRASH PICKUP: Normal trash pickup is on Fridays. Trash is picked up on Saturday when a holiday or inclement weather earlier in the week causes trash pickup to be delayed a day. The next scheduled holiday affecting our trash service is Memorial Day on Monday, May 25.

RECYCLING PICKUP: Coffey County offers curbside pickup of recyclable items, in New Strawn, on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. You must register for this service by contacting the Recycle Center or at City Hall. There is no cost for the service.

**New Strawn
Governing Body:**
Mayor Mark Petterson
Jeanne Haas, council president
Walter Railey, council member
Doug Hauff, council member
Bobby Bryant, council member
Patty Anderson, council member

City Employees
Kerry Templeton, city clerk
Ron Parkey, city superintendent/water operator
Steven Dwight, maintenance/laborer
Brenda Klubek treasurer
Doris McBride, assistant clerk

**New Strawn
Planning and Zoning Board:**
Richard Croll, chairman
Rhonda Taylor, secretary
Robert Harkrader
Doug Feldhausen
Mike Skillman