

New Strawn Notes

July 2016

Many enjoy Strawnfest 2016 activities, fireworks

Although the day was hot and muggy, a good-sized crowd turned out to enjoy the fun events planned for Strawnfest 2016.

Registration for the car show, which was sponsored by Trophies and Things, began at 9 a.m. and by noon the east and south side of the city park was filled with classic cars and trucks. Young and old alike enjoyed ogling the “oldies but goodies” on display throughout the day.

There were also food and merchandise vendors set up throughout the park for most of the day, a much appreciated and welcome addition!

An old favorite returned this year ... the kids’ fishing derby! Thirty boys and girls gathered at the City Lake at 9 a.m. and fished until 11 a.m., all trying to catch the most fish as possible. A BIG thanks to Justin Morrison from the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, who was on hand to offer expert advice and assist the kiddos as the fish were caught. Results are as follows:

Age 4 & under: Tom Vu – 1st Fish Caught; Brennan Buck – Biggest Fish Caught (20” catfish); Elyse Vu – Most Fish Caught in Inches (three fish totaling 33”).

Age 5-6: Addyj Allen swept all three categories as she was the only one in this age bracket who caught a fish!

Age 7-8: Chaelee Schmidt – 1st Fish Caught and Most Fish in Inches (two fish totaling 31”); D’Ann

Raymer – Biggest Fish Caught (17” bass).

Age 9-10: Brody Reynolds – 1st Fish Caught and Most Fish in Inches (two fish totaling 17”); Dominic Cauthers – Biggest Fish Caught (16”).

Age 11-14: Easton Burns won all three categories as, again, he was the only one in his age bracket to catch anything, a 17” and a 6”.

Two three-year-olds took home the overall prizes for Most Fish Caught in Inches and Biggest Fish Caught; Elyse Vu with a total of 33” in fish for the day and Brennan Buck who managed to reel in a 20” catfish, the biggest one landed all day! Congrats to all the kids who participated and also a “thank you” to Coffey Honda Powersports for supplying soda for the thirsty fishermen and a snazzy set of wheels for the derby “helpers” to zip around in!

At 1 p.m., Citizens State Bank sponsored a Money Hunt for the kids. They managed to find a shady spot under a tree and the kids enjoyed searching through a large pile of straw for “hidden treasure.” Citizens State Bank also sponsored awards for the Hot Wheels Racing at 1:30. Many thanks to them for their generosity and time!

At 2 p.m., the Coffey County Library - New Strawn Branch sponsored kite flying in the park. Kids were encouraged to try their hand

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Council member Anderson resigns

Council member Patty Anderson submitted a letter of resignation at the June 9, 2016, city council meeting. Anderson, who has served on the council since September 2014, is moving out of town and her resignation will be effective July 31, 2016. Mayor Petterson appointed Mrs. Anderson to her current council po-

sition to fill a vacancy created when her son, Matt Anderson, moved out of town. Patty’s late husband, Ed, also served as a council member. We wish Patty much luck and happiness at her new home and say a heartfelt “thanks” for her and her family’s numerous contributions over the years to our community!

Mayor makes new appointments

At the July 14 council meeting, Mayor Petterson recommended the appointment of Carl Ware as the City of New Strawn’s Zoning Administrator and Council approved the appointment. Mr. Ware, who previously worked for the City of Chanute, has been a resident of New Strawn for approximately six years and will bring invaluable experience to the position.

Mayor Petterson also recommend-

ed the appointment of Ron Strawder to the New Strawn Planning Commission & Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Strawder had been serving as an interim Zoning Administrator since the May 12 council meeting but felt he could better serve the community as a planning commission member. We would like to extend our gratitude to both of these gentlemen for stepping up and volunteering to serve our city in these capacities!

Drive-in movie night Aug. 6

The third annual New Strawn Branch Library Drive-In Movie Night will be Aug. 6 at John Redmond Reservoir Riverside West. There will be emergency vehicles and large machinery to view, dinosaur activities and a hot dog feed 6:30 to 8 p.m. The movie, “The Good Dinosaur” (sponsored by WCNO), will begin at sunset or roughly 8:30 p.m. This is a FREE event! Kiddos are encouraged to come to the library Tuesday, Aug. 2, at 10:30 a.m. to build and decorate their own cardboard car to sit in during the movie!

Pay your bill online at newstrawn.org

IM Design Group, Emporia, recently completed work on a “new and improved” website for the city. The address is the same, newstrawn.org, but the content has been improved (we think). Some of the newly added items include city ordinances, downloadable forms and the capability to pay your water bill online with credit/debit cards (service fees do apply). You can also find minutes of previous meetings, newsletters, Community Center/community events calendars and important notices.

OK Kids event

The Outdoor Kansas for Kids Coffey County (OK Kids) will be held Sept. 9-11. The City of New Strawn participates in this event each year by allowing a catch-and-release fishing tournament at New Strawn City Lake. Registration will begin at 8:15 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, and the tourney will commence at 9 a.m. and end at 10:30 a.m. OK Kids provides fun and entertaining outdoor events to help instill a better appreciation of the great outdoors in kids. For more information about this annual Coffey County event, go to www.okkidscc.com

Post Office Hours

Lobby hours for the post office are Monday-Friday: 9:30 to noon and 2 to 4 p.m. The post office is open on Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 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

Strawnfest

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at flying some homemade kites as well as some “fancier” ones brought from home. It was so fun to see the kites in the air and watch young and old alike working together to get them “up and away!”

Another new event this year was a water gun fight sponsored by the Coffey County Fire District No. 1 - New Strawn Station. This proved to be a very popular event as by 3 p.m. temperatures were in the upper 90s! We sure do appreciate our volunteer firemen and women! Free inflatables also arrived at 3 and were a hub of activity until they departed around 7 p.m.

A free picnic of hot dogs, chips, bottled water and ice cream was provided by the city at 4 p.m. Almost 300 hot dogs were grilled and distributed to hungry folks!

As evening rolled around, live music could be heard coming from the park. Found Alert, a musical group from the Christian Church of Burlington, performed at 5 p.m. in the sweltering heat and still managed to sound fantastic! A BIG thanks to them for coming out and sharing their music with us! At 7 p.m. Highway 75 Band treated folks to some great country sounds! This band is fairly “new” but knows how to crank out some music that will get you moving and singing along! Down the road, New Strawn may be able to boast that we were lucky enough to have them play before they made it “big!”

The day’s festivities at the park culminated in a fireworks display provided by Big Daddy’s Fireworks. As usual, Big Daddy did not disappoint and treated folks to a nearly 20-minute show.

After the fireworks were over, folks were encouraged to go down to Buddies Bar & Grill to enjoy a street dance with music provided by The Good Sam’s Club Band.

A final big “thank you” to everyone who donated time, money or other items. Your generous nature is much appreciated! BAHR TIRE, COFFEY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, COFFEY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, QUALITY COLLISION, HOOVER’S THRIFTWAY, WCNO, STEVENS & BRAND, COFFEY HONDA POWERSPORTS, HAAS OIL, SKILLMAN CONSTRUCTION, THIS & THAT CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY, CASEY’S GENERAL STORE, SONIC DRIVE-IN, CITIZENS STATE BANK, BUDDIES BAR & GRILL, NEW STRAWN STATION NO. 8 - COFFEY COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1, COFFEY COUNTY LIBRARY NEW STRAWN BRANCH, VANESSA NORTH, DAVE ANDERSON, PATTY ANDERSON, GARY & SUE HAEHN, BOBBY & TONYA BRYANT AND BIG DADDY’S FIREWORKS.

CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE AUG. 6: New Strawn will once again be holding our citywide garage sales in conjunction with Burlington’s on Aug. 6. The cost to have your sale placed on the map will be \$1 and the deadline for submitting yard sales will be Aug. 1. You MUST submit your sale information to New Strawn City Hall and NOT USD 244 Rec Center in order for it to be included on a map; the Rec Center will NOT include ANY New Strawn

The Field House, another new business springs up in town

The Field House recently opened in the former New Strawn school building, 139 N. First St. Terrace. Owner/partners in the venture are Colin Sleezer and Terry Swank, both of whom live in New Strawn, and Ronnie Anderson. Sleezer describes all three as “dedicated” and “passionate about baseball and softball.”

The Field House is an indoor hitting facility for individuals or teams, especially traveling teams, and is fully turfed. It has two indoor batting cages, pitching mounds that pitchers can practice and throw off of, two self-feeding pitching machines, soft toss stations, a soft toss machine, and a media room that can be used for hitting and pitching analysis.

Sleezer noted that the business is go-

ing to be driven towards camps, clinics, private lessons and instruction in different aspects of the game such as pitching, fielding, throwing, catching, etc., for various age levels.

The building has several classrooms that could possibly be rented by other people for other uses, such as exercise classes. A master calendar is available on the facility’s website, www.fieldhousefacility.com and people will be able to schedule use times and make payments online.

Sleezer said the building was a “good fit” for the business because it was in great shape, has high ceilings, commercial restrooms, and a break room and is close to U.S. 75.

We couldn’t agree more and wish The Field House much success!

yard sales on Burlington’s map (just not enough room).

COFFEY COUNTY LIBRARY - NEW STRAWN BRANCH NEWS: Monica Mader became the director of the New Strawn branch of Coffey County Library in October of 2015. She and her family moved to Burlington 13 years ago and she has been employed by the library system for the past 10 years. Prior to that, she worked as a substitute teacher and para for the USD 244 school district. Her husband is employed by Wolf Creek, her son worked for the Rec Center for a number of years and her daughter, Mary, currently works for the Burlington Branch of the Coffey County Library.

Monica, who has been employed in a library setting of some sort since high school, started at the Burlington branch as a part-time library assistant and was promoted to a full-time Assistant Branch Director three years ago. She states her time at the New Strawn branch, so far, has been great and feels the branch is a lot of fun and has great potential to continue growing. She would very much like to hear from you, the New Strawn community, about what you would like to see at our library. If you have suggestions on programming, book or movie titles, activities, or events, please contact her! You can call her at 364-8910, or email mmader@cclibks.org. Also, feel free to stop by the library to say “hi” to Monica and her co-worker, Vanessa North.

STREET MAINTENANCE PLANNED: APAC-Kansas, Inc. has been contracted to perform the asphalt work later this summer for Decker, Apache and Fifth streets. The Coffey County Highway Department will be performing chip seal work on Brown Street, possibly as early as the end of July, or in August, contingent on weather and other job obligations.

NEOSHO STREET CLOSED TEMPORARILY: Criqui Construction began work the first week in July on the drainage project affecting the central portion of New Strawn. Consequently, Neosho Street will be temporarily closed between Third and Fourth streets, while a new bridge/box culvert is installed. The project will also address other drainage issues involving First, Second and Third streets

and will hopefully be completed sometime in August.

ZONING NEWS: As a reminder, New Strawn is a zoned city and has (and enforces) zoning regulations. Permits are required for most projects, including new homes and additions, storage sheds and accessory buildings, if they are larger than 10’x12’, fences, driveways and some signs. The permitting process has been “stream-lined” and no longer requires council’s approval. The zoning administrator, city superintendent and code enforcement officer ensure all permits are in order and in compliance with zoning regulations and city code before approving a permit. This means folks no longer have to wait (sometimes weeks) to have a building permit approved at the next city council meeting.

Also, New Strawn has specific zoning districts, so it’s always a good idea to make sure your project is allowable in the zone you wish to build in or start a business in. If you are told your project is a “no go” you always have the right to appeal the decision or request a change in zoning or a variance or special use. Those cases are heard by our Board of Zoning Appeals, who then make a recommendation to Council as to whether to approve or disapprove a request.

Current members of the New Strawn Planning Commission & Board of Zoning Appeals are:

Richard Croll - chairman
Mike Skillman
Doug Feldhausen
Robert Harkrader
Ron Strawder

NEW STRAWN GOVERNING BODY

Mayor - Mark Petterson
Council Members:
Jim Weeks - Council President
Jeanne Haas
Bobby Bryant
Gary Haehn

CITY EMPLOYEES

City Clerk - Kerry Templeton
City Superintendent/Water Operator - Ron Parkey
Code Enforcement/Animal Control Officer/Maintenance - Steven Dwight
Treasurer - Brenda Klubek
Assistant Clerk - Doris McBride
Zoning Administrator - Carl Ware