

# New Strawn Notes

July/August 2019

## Update on former golf course

*Mayor Mark Petterson*

In May, the New Strawn governing body explored the possibility of purchasing the former Prairie Winds Golf Course, a 77-acre public golf course that closed at the end of 2018. The effort would have required participation from the Coffey County Board of Commissioners and the USD 244 Recreation Commission.

In a matter of weeks, a golf “expert” was contacted as was an administrator of a city with a municipally-owned golf course. Financial information from several municipal golf courses was obtained and a group of volunteers formed. Several special meetings were held regarding the golf course attended by the public. The issue moved forward faster than most city issues, in an attempt to “save” the greens for play in 2019, in the event the city successfully purchased the course.

The Coffey County Board of Commissioners offered to loan the city \$250,000 at zero percent interest over a term of 20 years with the first payment delayed until 2023. Contracts were drafted for review at the June 13 city council meeting. The Rec Commission met June 14 for their regular meeting, the day after the New Strawn City Council meeting.

At the June 13 city council meeting, the city council decided it did not need to know the Rec Commission’s monetary commitment for the golf course and unanimously voted

NOT to purchase the land, building and equipment.

At the July 11 city council meeting, which was attended by a number of citizens, the council reaffirmed the city would not operate a golf course; however, they would reconsider the possibility of getting the land for future recreational opportunities.

At the July 15 county commission meeting, commissioners were willing to provide a loan, if the city decides to purchase the land. The Rec Commission indicated the possibility of developing some recreational uses in the future. While the Rec Commission can develop and maintain land, it cannot purchase land.

A number of grants are available for recreation, parks, etc.; however, there is an application process and grants are not awarded overnight.

Possible uses for the land include: disc golf, walking/nature trails, foot golf, soccer fields, bike trails, fishing, and much more.

The city council is exploring the purchase of the land. The council planned to meet for a special meeting Friday, July 19, to determine whether or not to negotiate for the land. If the council decides to negotiate, a final decision will not be made until a future meeting. The public will be notified about any meeting related to purchasing the former golf course: fliers on the door, webpage, newspaper notice and email to those who are signed up for email notifications.

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If paying your bill online, there is a 2.5 percent fee for credit cards and \$1.50 if paying with your checking account. To avoid these fees charged by KanPay (not the City of New Strawn), you can pay in person or use the night drop box.

## Community Thanksgiving Dinner

The New Strawn Christian Church will be host of the community Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, Nov. 17. The dinner will be held at the New Strawn Community Building at 5:30 p.m. Main dishes will be provided; however, you are welcome to bring a side-dish of veggies, salad or dessert!

This is an opportunity to ‘give thanks’ with friends and neighbors. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Thank you to the New Strawn Christian Church for hosting this event each year!

### CITY HALL CLOSINGS

Labor Day - Sept. 2

Veterans Day - Nov. 11

Thanksgiving Day - Nov. 28

Day after Thanksgiving - Nov. 29

Christmas - Dec. 25

New Year’s Day - Jan. 1

City Hall normal business hours are 8 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## Positions available

At the time of this newsletter, the positions of ZONING ADMINISTRATOR and CODE ENFORCEMENT/ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER are open. These positions are appointed by the mayor and ratified by the city council. There is also the possibility that a planning board position may become vacant. If you are interested in serving the city in any of these positions, please contact city hall or contact Mayor Petterson.

**NEWSTRAWN.ORG** is the City Hall website where you can go online to pay your bill, read minutes, read city ordinances or check out upcoming community events. You can also find forms such as new account applications, community building reservation and other li-



# New Strawn Branch Library News

Rake through fall with The Coffey County Library New Strawn Branch! The library has a wide selection of items to check out like books, cd's, magazines and movies. The New Strawn Branch Library has activities for all ages!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to all of the participants at the New Strawn Branch Library turtle races at Strawnfest! First place went to Braden Dill, second place went to Wyatt Dauber, and third place went to August Sherman.

## **WATCH FOR THESE ACTIVITIES:**

**Drive-In Movie** - The New Strawn Library is gearing up for their sixth annual Drive-In Movie. The movie will be Aug. 3. Activities, hotdog feed and other pre movie fun will be 6:30 to 8 p.m. The movie will begin around 8:30 (dusk). This year the library will be showing *The Croods*. This is a FREE activity!

**Pool Day** - The Library will be providing FREE SWIM at the Burlington Pool 1 to 3 p.m. Aug. 9.

**Grocery Bingo** - 6:30 p.m. Aug. 20.

**OK Kids** - Sept. 7 - The Library will have putt-putt and other lawn games set up 1 to 4 p.m. Check out this event full of outdoor activities that last all day long!

## **Children's Programming Includes:**

Storytime - Every Tuesday at 11:15 a.m.

Teen Programming Includes:

Middle School After School Program - Every Tuesday at 3:45 p.m.

## **Adult Programming Includes:**

Fiber Arts - (Crochet, Knitting, Sewing, etc.) Every Tuesday at 5 p.m.

Healthy You - (Chair Exercising) Every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Book Club - Last Thursday of every month

Programs to look forward to:

Aug. 3 - sixth annual Drive-In Movie @ John Redmond Reservoir

Aug. 9 - Free swim at the pool 1-3 p.m.

Sept. 7 - OK Kids

Sept. 14 - Movie on the Lawn

Sept. 17 - Grocery Bingo @ 6:30

Oct. 15 - Grocery Bingo @ 6:30

October - Caramel Apple Sale

Please contact the library with any questions at (620) 364-8910 or visit their website at [www.cclibraryks.org](http://www.cclibraryks.org). Also, check out their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/newstrawn/>

## **New Strawn Library Hours:**

Monday/Wednesday/Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tuesday/Thursday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. to noon (after Labor Day)

**ANIMAL REGISTRATION AND TAGS: REMINDER** - Any dog or cat over six months of age shall be annually registered with the city clerk. Fees of \$2 for each neutered male and spayed female and \$5 for each unneutered male and unspayed female are due in January. Fees will double in price for each month's delinquency, i.e.: February, \$4 and \$10; March and beyond up to a maximum of \$8 and \$20. Tagging your pet is also for your "peace of mind." Even dogs and cats that live almost entirely in the house occasionally escape outdoors and a tag makes it much easier to reunite an owner with an animal. Any owner or harbinger of an animal that is found to be without a current license may be fined.

**CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE:** New Strawn and Burlington Citywide Garage Sales will be held August 3. There will be a separate map for New Strawn available at Casey's, New Strawn Branch of the Coffey County Library, and City Hall; however, Burlington Rec Center is where you will need to pay \$5 by July 29 at noon to be listed.

**COMMUNITY CENTER:** The rental fees for the Community Center for 2019 are as follows: Half Day or less \$50, Full Day \$100, and For-Profit Venue/Event \$150 per day.

**OK KIDS EVENT:** OK Kids (Outdoor Kansas Kids) event will take place Sept. 6-8. Camping will be available at John Redmond Reservoir, Riverside West campground. Meals will be provided by the Emergency Service Group (EMS, Fire, and Law Enforcement), First Assembly of God, and Radiant Life Church. A worship service will be available on Sunday morning for those who would like to attend. All weekend activities, camping and food are free to everyone who comes to the event!

**HALLOWEEN PARTY:** A Halloween party will be held on Oct. 31 at the Community Building. The fun will include a costume contest, hayrack rides, story time with the library staff, food and LOTS of candy! Admission is \$2.00 per person ages 4 & up. Be sure to bring your trick or treat bags!

They are asking for donations of candy for the event. If you would like to contribute, you can drop your candy off at City Hall.

**EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE:** The general election is Tuesday, Nov. 5. New Strawn residents will vote at the Community Building. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**MEETING NOTIFICATIONS:** The public is welcome to attend all city council and City planning meetings. City council meetings are conducted in the open on the second Thursday of each month. While the public generally does not participate in meeting business, a portion of each regular monthly meeting is designated for public comments.

If you would like to be on our email notification list, leave your name and email address with the city clerk or assistance city clerk, or click the link by going online to our website at [newstrawn.org](http://newstrawn.org). If you have been on a past notification list, you must renew your request annually. NOTE: You must include your name with request to be added to our notification list. If City Hall receives a request via our website that seems suspicious or without all required information, you will not be added.

**CITY COUNCIL & STAFF:** Mark A. Petterson, Mayor; Council Members Rhonda Taylor, Richard Croll, Jeanne Haas, Gary Haehn, Jim Weeks; Joni Hernandez, City Clerk; Doris McBride, Assistant Clerk; Brenda Klubek, Treasurer; Ron Parkey, City Superintendent; Steven Dwight, Maintenance; and Robert Williamson, Assistant.