

New Strawn Notes

January/February/March 2022

Thank you, New Strawn

It's official. I am starting to feel like an "old-timer."

Actually, it's official, I am no longer a resident of New Strawn. I married Becky Richwine and moved to Burlington right around Christmastime. Rhonda Taylor, who served as city council president, was sworn in as mayor on Dec. 30. I definitely surprised her with the news, but I know she will do what is in the best interest of the residents of New Strawn.

I know what it feels like to be "surprised." I moved back to New Strawn, the town I grew up in, during Christmas of 2000, several months after my father's death. By the spring, it was election time and several residents conspired to write in my name for an open city council seat. I was definitely surprised. I had no aspirations to hold an elected office (other than precinct committeeman), but I decided to give it a try. Next thing I knew, I was running for mayor two years later and won. That was 18½ years ago.

It's hard to believe how time flies ... then you are an old-timer.

My parents moved to New Strawn from Topeka in 1972 BWC (Before Wolf Creek). No family in the area. No other ties. My father was retired from the U.S. Air Force and they just wanted to get out of Topeka. Apparently they liked the area and the schools (score!). I started in second grade, my sister, Sonia, in kindergarten and my brother, B.J., was four.

About everyone knows New Strawn got its start around 1964 when the original town of Strawn was flooded due to the construction of John Redmond Reservoir. The new town was officially incorporated in 1970.

Back in 1972, Arrowhead Hills was a brand new subdivision and our house was the fifth house built. I believe the town's population just topped 100 (it's about 400 now). Several years later, I had a paper route and I had as custom-

ers the real old-timers - Boyce, Williamson, Claycamp, Ferris, Wheeler, Jackson, Mitchell, Fisher, Skillman, Tompkins, Rathke, Bahr, Hayen, Ellis, Chester, Payne, Garrett and Rich, to name a few. Most are gone, but a few remain.

Remembering what things were like 50 years ago and how so many things have changed over the years really makes me feel like an old-timer. Back then, the water was pumped from wells and at times was rust-colored. Anyone who remembers that can appreciate the water improvements (tower and distribution lines) completed 20 years ago, just before I moved back. The last water loan payment will be made in July and New Strawn will officially be DEBT-FREE for the first time ... probably in its existence. That will be something to celebrate!

Other infrastructure improvements have been made, including sewer and streets. The city lake underwent a major transformation in the 1980s and playground improvements have been made. More park improvements will be made in the future as well as improvements to the community building and much more.

During my time as mayor, I really enjoyed the people - our city employees, citizens and council members. Our city employees really make things run smoothly. Their knowledge and longevity make a huge difference in being able to do things that benefit the citizens of New Strawn. Having a diverse city council working to benefit the citizens also is a must.

While I may feel like an old-timer now, I didn't feel that way over 20 years ago. I hope some of New Strawn's younger citizens, will consider becoming involved in city government, or volunteer for community events. You won't regret it.

Of course, New Strawn will always be "home" to me. Thank you everyone for your support over the years.

—Mark A. Petterson

Snow and ice removal on city streets

Please DO NOT park vehicles in the street during inclement weather, especially along the emergency routes: Neosho Street to North 4th Street (ALL of 4th Street is an emergency route), Cherokee Street to Main Street and ALL of Main Street, including Arrowhead Drive. Vehicles parked in the street make it difficult to effectively treat the streets for icy con-

ditions as well as impede snow removal.

Snow removal will be limited if accumulation is less than 2 inches, designated emergency routes and school bus routes will be addressed with either snow removal or salt and/or sand treatment, possibly both. Other residential streets will be addressed after the emergency routes and school bus routes are finished.

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.

Mayor update

Happy New Year! After the hectic start to 2022 I want to take this opportunity to say I am looking forward to what lies ahead for our community. Thanks to Mark Petterson for his service to New Strawn the past 20+ years, Best Wishes! Rhonda Taylor, Mayor.

Code enforcement

Randy Rogers is now working Code Enforcement for New Strawn. Please continue submitting written complaints to City Hall and they will be passed on to Randy.

City Hall hours

City Hall regular hours are: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL & STAFF:
Rhonda Taylor, Mayor

Council Members:
David Christiansen, Jeanne Haas
Gary Haehn, Johnny Hernandez,
Jim Weeks

Lana Johnson, City Clerk
Robert Williamson, Assistant
Brenda Klubek, Treasurer
Steven Dwight, Maintenance
Heidi Harris, Zoning Administrator
Randy Rogers, Code Enforcement

CITY LAKE: As a reminder, ice skating is not allowed on the city lake. While the surface may look solid, the layer of ice could be thinner than it appears. Also, no sticks, stones, trash or other objects shall be thrown or discarded in the parks lands or city lake.

DUCKS UNLIMITED: The John Redmond Chapter of Ducks Unlimited Banquet fundraiser will be held Saturday, March 5 at the New Strawn Community Building. Doors open and activities start at 5:30 p.m. Contact Bob Hammond 620-203-0668 for tickets: \$15 for Kids, \$35 for Single and \$45 for Couple and \$250 for Sponsor. Bring the family and enjoy games, raffles, auctions and a delicious meal!

YARD OF THE MONTH CONTEST: The Fall "Yard of the Month" contest 1st place was 315 W Cherokee St and 2nd place was 1101 N Arrowhead Dr. Halloween Yard of the Month Winner was

216 Cheyenne St and 2nd place was 115 N 6th St. For December, Over the top - most likely to blow a fuse - 1020 Arrowhead, Best animated character - 216 Cheyenne, Best children's display - 1010 Arrowhead, Brightest wreath - notable yard art - 115 N 6th St, Honorable Mentions: 360 N 1st St, 913 Arrowhead and 920 Arrowhead. Thanks to everyone who participated.

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 licensing forms. You can also find us on Facebook at City of New Strawn - City Hall.

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 charges by KanPay (not the City of New Strawn), you can pay in person or use the night drop box.

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 assistant city clerk, or click the link by going online to our website at 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.

New Strawn Branch Library news

The Coffey County Library New Strawn Branch has a wide selection of items to check out. They have books, CD's, magazines and movies. If you want to watch a new release, get it for free at the library. They also have activities for all ages.

YAK & YARN: Tuesdays at 5 p.m.

SNACKS & STORIES: Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

ON-THE-GO: A different craft/activity each week ready for take home fun (while supplies last).

SIP 'N SOCIAL: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8, at the New Strawn Community Building: **GALENTINE'S DAY EVENT** featuring cake pop decorating with Home Town Pie Co and floral arrangement making with Mossy Nest (must register).

SIP 'N SOCIAL: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, at New Strawn Community Building: **PAINT POURING ART**

COFFEY COUNTY LIBRARY WINTER OLYMPIC CHALLENGE: All month of February, different activities each week to achieve the library's statistics goals.

FEBRUARY FOOD FOR FINES: Donated non-perishable items will go toward fines owed at the library. 1 item = \$1

NEW STRAWN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

ADVANTAGE AUTO BODY
145 N MAIN ST (620) 203-8273

ARROWHEAD HILLS TRAVEL SVC
Susan Croll (620) 364-5871

BAHR STORAGE
Chris Bahr (620) 364-2689

BRI'S DANCE STUDIO
Bri Birk (620) 343-5125

BUILDERS CHOICE CONCRETE
220 Industrial Rd (620) 364-2707

CASEY'S GENERAL STORE
129 N Main St (620) 364-5513

CITIZENS STATE BANK
407 Arrowhead St (620) 364-8871

COFFEY COUNTY HONDA
105 S Main St (620) 364-5600

COFFEY COUNTY RURAL WATER DISTRICT #3
235 N Main St (620) 364-8099

DAVIS LOCK & KEY
Jerry Davis (785) 493-4709

ESSENTIAL BODYWORK
Kelsey Orr (620) 203-8733

FRAME UPS
Janet Harkrader (620) 490-0268

GREAT PLAINS DESIGN CENTER
308 INDUSTRIAL RD (620) 364-2007

HARKRADER MOWING & SNOW REMOVAL
ROBERT HARKRADER (620) 490-0258

HOMETOWN PIE COMPANY
219 N MAIN ST (620) 344-0160

JEFF'S TOWING & RECOVERY
110 W DECKER (620) 213-1669

KAN-SEAL
1905 US HWY 75 (620) 364-3300

LAKESIDE LIQUORS
217 N MAIN ST (620) 364-8929

LEGACY FINANCIAL
RICHARD CROLL (620) 364-9232

MCMURRAY DENTAL
JAMES H MCMURRAY DDS
209 N MAIN ST (620) 364-8453

MERAKI SALON
205 N MAIN ST (620) 490-0057

MID WEST FIRE TRAINING
CHERYL TREPTOW (620) 364-2832

NEWKIRK SALES
RICHARD NEWKIRK (620) 203-0065

NEW STRAWN BRANCH COFFEY COUNTY LIBRARY
365 N MAIN ST (620) 364-8910

NEW STRAWN - STATION #8 COFFEY COUNTY FIRE DIST. #1
301 W LAKE RD (620) 364-8258

ROBERT LEE'S BAR & GRILL
255 N Main St (620) 364-1415

RUSTY COOP RESTORATIONS
Laura Williams 785-979-3728

SWANK HEATING, COOLING & PLUMBING
117 N 4th St (620) 364-8258

VICTORY EXCAVATING
345 N MAIN ST (620) 364-2505

VAUGHN - ROTH LAND BROKERS
CAMERON ROTH (785) 917-0867

WOLF CREEK NUCLEAR OPERATING CORP.
(620) 364-8831

WOLF CREEK RESORTS
400 W LAKE RD (620) 364-0046