

# New Strawn Notes

January/February 2018

## Annual Easter Egg Hunt planned

New Strawn Community Improvement Organization (NSCIO) will host the annual New Strawn Easter Egg Hunt 10 a.m. Saturday, March 31 at the New Strawn Community Building. The time for the event is tentatively set and could change. Check the city's website at [newstrawn.org](http://newstrawn.org) for updates.

This event is for children up to age 11 and is always a huge success and well-attended. The Easter Bunny sometimes "hops in" for photo ops and very nice prizes are given away, such as new bicycles!

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

Hall. Contact Brenda Klubek at (620)-364-5210 or Jeri Carpenter at (620)364-2406 for more information or to volunteer to help. Stuffing hundreds of eggs with candy and prizes is time-consuming and NSCIO always welcomes more helping hands!

NSCIO would also like to sincerely thank all those who helped with the Halloween Party and hayrack rides!

NSCIO always welcomes new members. If you're looking for a way to give back to your community and to get more involved, joining this organization would be a great way to do that. They are invaluable to our city and we are so lucky to have them!

## Don't forget to tag your pets

It's time to renew your animal licenses for 2018. As a reminder, it is unlawful for the owner of any previously registered dog or cat to fail to maintain current registration of such animal. 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 registration fees through the end of January are \$2.00 for a spayed or neutered animal and \$5.00 for unspayed or unneutered pets. The fee will go up Feb. 1 to \$4.00 for spayed/neutered animals and \$10.00 for unspayed dogs and cats. In March the fees increase, again, to \$8.00 for spayed or neutered animals and \$20.00 for unaltered pets.

A benefit of registering your animals with the city is having a record of the description of your pet in the event it is found at-large (sometimes they do run off or get lost). 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 can't make it into City Hall during regular business hours to get your pets tagged, you can drop the appropriate payment and documentation in our night drop box and your tags will be mailed to you.

While we're on the subject of furry friends/fur babies let's talk about courtesy. City Hall has had numerous recent complaints regarding dogs being allowed to do their "business" in others' yards. While we all understand that a dog must do his "business" outdoors, and sometimes only after a vigorous walk has coaxed his "business" forth, it's just a common courtesy to carry a little plastic baggy with you and pick up Fido's doo-doo rather than leave it where it was deposited. Your neighbors don't want to step in that, or mow over it and sling it all over kingdom come. So, please, practice a little "crapity-doodah" courtesy and pick up your pets' toilets.

## New council members sworn in

Three council members were sworn in prior to the regular Jan. 11 New Strawn City Council meeting. Jeanne Haas, who sought and won a third term on the council, took the oath of office along with Richard Croll and Rhonda Taylor. Haas was first elected to serve on the City Council in 2009. Prior to moving to New Strawn, Haas also served on the City of Gridley's council, so she is well-versed in the ways of small-town municipal government and is a valuable asset to New Strawn!

Richard Croll has been an appointed member of the New Strawn Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals for the City for the past eight years, serving as Chairman of the Commission for seven of those eight years. Croll also served previously as a New Strawn City Council member, so he brings an abundance of experience and knowledge to the council table.

Rhonda Taylor, although a "newbie" to the New Strawn City Council, is certainly no stranger to governmental proceedings. Taylor also served as an

appointed member on the New Strawn Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals for eight years, acting as secretary for the commission for part of that period. Taylor has also previously served as a member on the Burlington USD 244 Board of Education and will undoubtedly bring some new ideas and a fresh approach to many aspects of City business.

As we say "hello" to these newest members we also say "goodbye" and "thanks" to the outgoing members.

Kraig Kirchner, who stepped up and accepted an appointment to the Council when a vacancy was created by the departure of Patty Anderson, served our community well. He attended meetings faithfully, offered insight and thoughtful input on all city matters and conducted himself well throughout his term, which spanned a little over a year.

Bobby Bryant was elected to the Council in April of 2013 and served a four-year term. He admittedly "knew

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## Breakfast fundraiser

Firefighters from the New Strawn Fire Station will be holding a breakfast fundraiser 7 a.m. Saturday, March 31 at the New Strawn Fire Station. This year they are expanding their menu and will have more breakfast food items available besides biscuits and gravy! Be sure to mark your calendars and attend this event to show support for our fire department ... and to gorge yourself on some truly delicious food!

## Strawnfest

Plans are underway for Strawnfest 2018, which will be held on June 30. A committee is being formed to plan the event this year. Please contact City Hall at 364-8283 if you'd like to be on the committee, or help with Strawnfest 2018.

## Trout on the way

Each year, New Strawn City Lake is stocked with 470+ pounds of rainbow and golden trout, ranging in length from 8 to more than 16 inches and weighing in at an average of more than three-quarters pound each. This year, the trout will arrive on or around Jan. 25. As usual, there will be some lunkers waiting to be caught ranging in weight from 3 to 8 pounds. New Strawn's trout come from southwestern Missouri, down where those spring-fed streams grow 'em big and feisty!

Besides a current Kansas fishing license, a city fishing permit is required to fish in the City Lake. A trout stamp is required to be purchased through May first. The daily creel limit for our trout is two. There is a "No Catch and Release" provision in effect for the trout, because once they have been hooked, they will die.

City fishing permits and trout stamps are available at City Hall as well as Casey's, Circle B Lumber & Farm Supply and Coffey County Honda. We greatly appreciate these businesses helping us sell the permits!

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.

The USD 244 Recreation Commission generously contributes \$1,500 annually to New Strawn for the purchase of the trout and we thank them for that! We have anglers from out of the county and even out of the state show up at our little lake to fish for trout through the end of April! As always, we encourage anyone who snags a "big one" to bring it by City Hall for a photo op. Or, take your own picture and email it to us at [city-clerk@newstrawn.org](mailto:city-clerk@newstrawn.org). We'll happily display it on our bragging wall.

# New Members

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little” (in his own words) about city government when he came on board but was a quick study and was soon offering new ideas and ways of approaching problems and issues. Mr. Bryant treated everyone with the utmost respect – fellow council members, employees and anyone who brought a problem or an issue to a council meeting.

Hats off to both of these gentlemen, and to the three newly elected members as well as sitting Council members Jim Weeks and Gary Haehn, for tackling a role, and a job, that few are eager to accept but many are eager to criticize.

And while we’re doling out accolades, our current mayor, Mark Petterson, has consecutively served the community of New Strawn for well over 16 years – first, as a council member and then as Mayor. Talk about dedication and a willingness to serve! Hats off to you as well, Mr. Petterson!

**LAWN OF THE MONTH:** There were some “spooktacularly” decorated houses and lawns around town last October, but the Fosters at 115 N. Sixth Street ended up snagging the “Lawn of the Month” prize. The Fosters had an outstanding display last fall and really went all out for Halloween! Mr. Foster says they love to decorate for the holidays and plan on adding even more frighteningly fun stuff for Halloween 2018!

New Strawn residents know how to spread Christmas cheer! Houses ALL over town, from Hillview Drive to Brown Street to Chippewa Street to Arrowhead Drive, were sporting twinkling lights, animated displays and even holiday music! The city council really had their work cut out for them to pick just one recipient for “Lawn of the Month” but chose the Stukeys’ residence at 1020 N. Arrowhead Dr. That makes the Stukeys December “Lawn of the Month” champs for two years in a row! They put a lot of hours and work into their display and it shows because it would put ‘ole Clark Griswold’s to shame! However, they had some stiff competition this year! Some honorable mentions include: the Howards at 1010 N. Arrowhead Dr., the Ballengees at 216 W. Cheyenne St., the Kurases at 360 N. First St., the Williamses at 250 Brown St. and the Fosters at 115 N. Sixth St. Those are just a few of the many folks that made a drive through New Strawn so fun and festive this past December. One gentleman conveyed to City Hall that he counted 87 cars one evening drive by his house! What a great way to show off our little community! Thanks to everyone who put up some beautiful lights and fun displays for young and old alike to enjoy!

**ZONING NEWS:** The New Strawn Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals has a new member. Kyle Hinterweger was appointed to the position by Mayor Petterson and unanimously approved by Council at the Jan. 11 regular council meeting. Mr. Hinterweger, who was sworn in just prior to the Jan. 16 Planning Commission meeting, volunteered for the

position – what a breath of fresh air! We want to thank him for his willingness and eagerness to get involved with his community! Mr. Hinterweger fills a vacancy created by Richard Croll’s departure after being elected to the city council. The Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals is a five-member government entity. Currently, seat five (5) is still vacant, so if you’d like to step up and volunteer, please contact City Hall or Mayor Petterson.

The Planning Commission held a meeting on Jan. 16 and elected new officers. Robert Harkrader was elected to serve as Chairman, Mike Skillman will serve as Secretary and Kyle Hinterweger will serve as Vice Chairman. Doug Feldhausen is the fourth member and Carl Ware serves as Zoning Administrator.

The Planning Commission has set a date to hold a public hearing regarding the passage of the Comprehensive Plan and proposed new Zoning and Subdivision Regulations. The hearing will be held 6 p.m. Feb. 27 at the New Strawn Community Building. An official notification will be published in the city’s official newspaper, The Coffey County Republican, with more details about the hearing. Copies of the plan and proposed new zoning and subdivision regulations will be made available for public review at the New Strawn Branch Library, City Hall and on the City’s website at [www.newstrawn.org](http://www.newstrawn.org) once notification of the hearing has been published in the paper.

To clarify, the public hearing is for residents within city limits and New Strawn’s extraterritorial area outside of city limits, to attend and ask questions or voice concerns they may have about the proposed passage of any of the three items. The Planning Commission’s job, over the course of several years, has been to review, revise and prepare the plan and regulations for approval for passage by Council. After considering all public comments, they will either vote to approve and refer on to Council for passage by an ordinance, or they will make amendments as they feel might be necessary. Ultimately, the New Strawn City Council will have final approval of the Comprehensive Plan and any new Zoning and Subdivision Regulations and must pass an ordinance to effect any changes. Also, bear in mind that zoning and subdivision regulations are separate from the Code of the City of New Strawn. New Strawn CANNOT enforce any City Code on those folks who live within our extraterritorial area outside city limits. We can only enforce subdivision regulations which, in a nut shell, means residents in New Strawn’s extraterritorial area will apply for building permits from the City of New Strawn rather than the county. Please take the time to review all the documents once the public hearing notice has been published.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER:** As a reminder, please DO NOT park vehicles in the street during inclement weather, especially along the emergency routes which are: Neosho Street to North Fourth Street (ALL of Fourth 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 extremely difficult (and hazardous to your ve-

hicles!) to effectively treat the streets for icy conditions and implement snow removal. If the weatherman is saying there might be a chance of the fluffy white stuff or nasty icy conditions, please remember to park anywhere other than the street.

**NEWSTRAWN.ORG:** As a reminder, the city has a website where you can go to pay your bill online, read minutes from past council meetings, peruse city ordinances or check out upcoming community events. You can also find forms, such as new account applications, community building reservation forms and other licensing forms.

**COFFEY COUNTY LIBRARY NEW STRAWN BRANCH NEWS:** The Coffey County Library New Strawn Branch has something for everybody! The library has a wide selection of items to check out such as books, CD’s, magazines and movies! If you want to watch that “new release” that just came out, come get it for free at the library! The New Strawn Branch Library has activities going on throughout the month for ages 1-140! :)

Storytime is every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

Lapsit is every Thursday at 11:15 a.m.

Discovery Time is every Friday at 10:30 a.m.

Home School Storytime is the first and third Monday (Feb-April) at 1:45 p.m.

Middle School After School Program is every Tuesday at 3:45 p.m.

Fiber Arts (for adults) is every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

Healthy You (chair exercising) is every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Some more upcoming activities include:

Pinterest Party – Jan. 25 at 3:30 p.m.

Grocery Bingo – Jan. 30 at 6:30 p.m. Come play for a chance to win some groceries! This is a FREE activity but donations are happily accepted!

Book Sale – Feb. 8-12

Spring Break Activities – March 19-23. Stop by the library to see what’s going on during spring break!

The fifth annual Drive-In Movie will be Aug. 5.

Check out the library’s Facebook page to see what’s going on at: <https://www.facebook.com/new.strawn/>

**LEAD AND COPPER SURVEY:** Please take a moment to complete the lead and copper survey that was included with your water bill and this newsletter. You can mail it back with your utility payment, or drop it in the night deposit box located on the front of City Hall. The survey stems from newly added state regulations being enforced on all cities nationwide after the water crisis in Flint, Mich., began in 2014. The EPA has mandated these new regulations to ensure the public’s safety so your help is greatly appreciated!

**NOTIFICATION LIST:** If you have been on the City’s notification list previously and would like to continue to receive emails regarding upcoming Council and Planning Commission meetings, as well as newsletters, please contact City Hall at: [cityclerk@newstrawn.org](mailto:cityclerk@newstrawn.org). You must request this service each January.