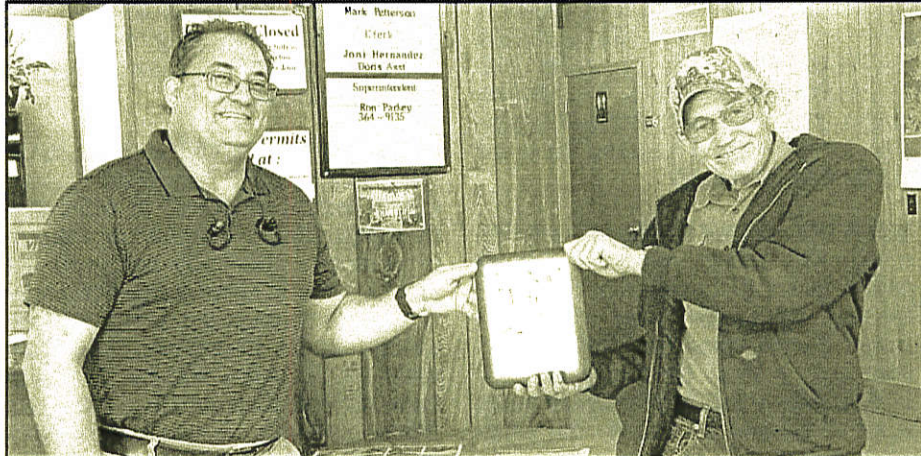


New Strawn Notes

April/May 2020



New Strawn Mayor Mark Petterson presents a plaque commemorating City Superintendent Ron Parkey's 17 years of service to the City of New Strawn.

City superintendent retires

Ron Parkey, City Superintendent for 17 years, retired March 31. He was presented with a plaque thanking him for his years of service to the

City of New Strawn. Steven Dwight was promoted to Maintenance Operator, effective April 1. He has been a city employee since 2012.

Playground and park bathrooms closed

On Saturday, March 28, Governor Kelly issued Executive Order 20-16, establishing a statewide "Stay at Home" order to further slow the spread of Covid-19. The intent of this Executive Order is for people to stay at home to the greatest extent possible. The Order became effective Monday, March 30.

The City will continue to provide all essential services. City buildings continue to be closed to the pub-

lic; however, operations are being conducted as usual. City parks will remain open, but restrooms, playground equipment, and shelters are closed, as well as the Community Center.

Visitors are encouraged to follow CDC guidelines for social distancing at City parks (six feet separation, no more than 10 people present). Thank you to Tammy Hughes with WCNO for the donation to the Park Fund!

Trash service policy

For the protection of their employees, Republic Services will pick up "cart contents only" and it will be at the discretion of the driver regarding bags only at curbs; i.e. garbage needs to be inside a trash bag AND inside a trash container. If you have a container as well as any bags on the ground, the driver will not pick

up the extra bags. Items can possibly poke through or animals may tear them open causing safety concerns for the driver. They have suspended picking up bulk items nationwide.

Have your trash out by 7 a.m. Trash pickup is every Friday. If a recognized holiday falls during the week, pickup day will be Saturday.

Notice to our valuable customers

Due to the governor's current stay-at-home orders, in an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19, City Hall doors are temporarily closed to the public. Please use mail, online bill pay or the drop box to make payments. For other questions or concerns, please call (620) 364-8283.

City Hall regular hours are: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. For water emergencies, please contact Maintenance Operator at (620) 490-1343. Stay safe and stay healthy!

Strawnfest 2020

Plans were to hold Strawnfest 2020 on Saturday, June 20. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, planning is on hold and the celebration will likely be postponed, at this time. This year's Strawnfest was to celebrate the town's 50th Anniversary in conjunction with WCNO's "Party in the Park."

Temporary seasonal laborer

The City is accepting applications for a Temporary Seasonal Laborer to assist the Maintenance Operator from May through August for approximately 25 hours per week at a rate of \$12 per hour. Duties will include mowing, painting, reading meters, and tasks as assigned. Please contact City Hall at (620) 364-8283 for an application.

ZONING NEWS: The Planning Commission will meet for its Annual Review of the Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Regulations and Sub Division Regulations at 6 p.m. Friday, May 1. This is a public hearing. It will be held at the Community Center. It will most likely require maintaining the social/physical distancing rule of 6 feet. Earlier, the planning commission made a recommendation to the city council regarding the maximum square footage for accessory structures/garages. The city council tabled the recommendation and should act on it soon.

BUILDING PERMITS REQUIRED: Building permits are required for new construction, additions, fences, signs, swimming pools, excavating (curb cutting), accessory buildings/sheds/shops, and structural altering. Please contact City Hall before starting a project. Site plans and appropriate fees are to be submitted with your application. Private swimming pools (including temporary pools) must be enclosed prior to filling with water. See the City Code for specific information regarding fence height, etc. Zoning Administrator Martha Newkirk must sign your application before your project is approved.

BURN PILE: The new burn pile is located at the north end of Sorg Street. It is for residents who live within city limits. The burn pile is for trees and brush; **NO LUMBER OR FURNITURE ALLOWED AT THE BURN PILE.** If you live outside city limits, please use Coffey County Landfill.

COFFEY COUNTY LANDFILL: The citywide cleanup was canceled; however, residential items are being accepted at the Coffey County Landfill through April 30 at no charge.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT: Included with the water bills is a copy of the 2019 Consumer Confidence Report. The report states that the water provided to you is safe.

ASPHALT STREET PROJECTS: At its April meeting, the council discussed spending approximately \$95,000 for the 2020 asphalt street project. Upon acceptance of a bid, the work will begin this summer for the following proposed streets: 4th (South), 5th, 1st Terrace, Mohawk

and Getz. The shelter house parking and tennis court parking will be included.

NO NETTING ALLOWED AT CITY LAKE: Fishing is still allowed; however, netting is forbidden even if attempting to get bait. Fines will be imposed. Fishing licenses can be purchased at Casey's General Store in New Strawn. **NOTE: PARK BATHROOMS ARE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.** Thank you to the USD 244 Recreation Commission for providing funding for trout stocked in January!

MOWING REMINDER: City Ordinance No. 2015-04 requires that all properties within the city limits be mowed, except for those which are zoned agricultural and have a current hay permit on file with City Hall. If grass and/or weeds are more than 12 inches in height, the property owner will be sent a one-time notice. The City may assess the cost of cutting or destroying weeds/grass as defined in the Code, including a reasonable administrative fee, against the owner, occupant or agent in charge of the property. The City has set the fee for mowing for the purpose of cutting or destroying weeds/grass at \$200 per hour, with a one-hour minimum charge.

ANIMAL CONTROL: Dogs and cats require city tags each calendar year. Proof of rabies vaccination is required to purchase a tag. Keep your dogs contained by either a fence or chain and by always walking your dog on a leash. If your dog is reported to be running at large, you will be contacted by the City code enforcement officer. Fines are \$50 per dog, per incident. If taken to municipal court, the judge may impose a fine up to \$500.

FARMERS MARKET: (TO BE DETERMINED DEPENDING ON COVID-19 UPDATES) The Farmers Market will be every Wednesday from 3 to 6 p.m. beginning June through October. Only growers or producers may sell. A grower or producer is any person offering for sale articles such as fruits, honey, jellies, jams, or baked goods such as breads, cookies, or pies (ITEMS WHICH REQUIRE REFRIGERATION MAY NOT BE SOLD) which have been raised, grown or created

by him/her, members of his/her family, or by persons in his/her employ. Sellers must be 18 years of age or accompanied by an adult. A more complete list of rules is available online at newstrawn.org.

STREET LIGHTS: If you notice any street lights out, please contact Maintenance Operator at (620) 490-1343 or City Hall at (620) 364-8283 with the location. Thank you for your assistance!

VETERANS BANNER PROJECT OPPORTUNITY: The New Strawn City Council is proud to offer you the opportunity to honor a veteran or someone currently active in the military while at the same time celebrating Veterans Day. Cost is \$200 for a large banner with photo of military member. Banners will hang within New Strawn City limits along Main Street for one month in conjunction with Veterans Day activities for three consecutive years. Forms are available on the city's website or call and one can be mailed to you. Deadline to submit is July 15.

WEBSITE TO BE UPDATED: The City's website, newstrawn.org, is in the process of being updated with the Code of Ordinances and zoning information. You can go online to pay your bill, read minutes, read city ordinances or check out upcoming community events. Forms are available online, such as new utility account applications, community building reservation and other licensing applications. 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 via KanPay (not the City of New Strawn), you can mail or use the night drop box. Check with your bank for its online options regarding bill pay.

CITY COUNCIL AND STAFF: Mark A. Petterson, Mayor; Council Members: Richard Croll, Jeanne Haas, Gary Haehn, Rhonda Taylor and Jim Weeks; Steven Dwight, Maintenance Operator; Joni Hernandez, City Clerk; Doris McBride, Asst. City Clerk; Brenda Klubek, Treasurer; Tom Robrahn, City Attorney; Martha Newkirk, Zoning Administrator; Chris Allen, Code Enforcement Officer; and Robert Williamson, Assistant.