Annual NSCIO Halloween party

New Strawn Community Improvement Organization (NSCIO) will be holding their annual “spooktacular” Hallowe’en party on Oct. 31 at the New Strawn Community Building. The fun starts at 5:30 p.m. and will include a costume contest, hayrack rides, story time with the library, food (hot dog, chili, Frito pie, chips, drinks and dessert) and naturally, LOTS of candy! Admission is $2 per person ages 4 and up. Be sure to bring your trick or treat bags!

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

Many, many thanks to the members of NSCIO and the volunteers who make this event possible each year! The always fabuloustic decorations, the food prep, manning the games, drivers for the hayrack rides, the folks that hand out candy and make the party ... all of you have a hand in ensuring this event is a fun-filled and exciting time for the kiddos. New Strawn appreciates each and every one of you!

Ho Ho Ho … Guess who’s coming to town

The city, in conjunction with the New Strawn Branch Library, will be hosting a Christmas event 5:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1. The library will be helping children construct decorations for our Christmas tree in front of City Hall and we’ll decorate it and light it up on the spot! And this is the first year we will be some added fun! We’ll be Christmas caroling around town in a wagon from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. Then, it’s off to the library for snacks and Story Time at 7 p.m.

And, rumor has it that the jolly old fat man himself is going to make an appearance around 7:35 p.m. It’s been a while since ‘ole Saint Nick has visited New Strawn and he’s sure to make a grand entrance, so be sure to come out and join us in knowing that, yes, it’s the holiday season! If you would like to donate cookies, sandwich es, veggie trays, or other snack items for the event, please contact Monica or Vanessa at the library for more details!

Seeking help with grant

The City of New Strawn is investigating the possibility of applying for a Walter S. and Evan C. Jones Testimonial Trust Grant to make improvements/upgrades to our current Jones Park, which is located on Getz Street across from the community building. We have received confirmation from the grant management organization that they will consider any reasonable request, but they will not fund the sole funder of any project. They want to see significant city/resident support of an idea. The city council will be forming a committee to compile information for the grant writing process and to formulate specific details of what type of improvements need to be made, cost and what and who will be involved in carrying them out. We would like the committee to consist of residents and business owners interested and dedicated to the project. You don’t need previous grant writing experience (but we would certainly welcome that!) If you’re interested in seeing some much-needed improvement in the current Jones Park and would like to assist in making that a reality, please contact City Hall at (620)364-6283. We would like to do this work on this grant sometime in January, so let us know if you’d like to be on the committee.

New business coming soon

New Strawn will soon be able to welcome a “delicious” new business to town! Wanda Chaffain recently purchased the Lyon-Coffey Electric office space at 219 N. Main Street (right next door to Lakeside Liquor) and it will be the new home of Hometown Pie Company. Wanda, with the help of husband Chad and some hardworking friends, hopes to have the business up and running by the first of November. Wanda makes mouthwateringly scrumptious pies that she distributes to retail stores, such as Hoover’s, for resale, and was experiencing some “growing pains” and needed more space (growing pains, in this case, are a GOOD thing!). Right now, Wanda plans to focus on churning out pies for distribution but hopes eventually to offer retail services of her own here in town. She will also be taking special orders for the upcoming holidays! If you’ve not tried a Hometown Pie Company product, I suggest you trot over to Hoover’s and buy one. You’ll swear the grandson made it! Welcome Wanda and Chad … we’re happy you chose New Strawn as your “hometown”!

Community Thanksgiving dinner

The New Strawn Christian Church will once again be hosting a community Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 17. The dinner will be held at the New Strawn Community Building at 5:30 p.m. with main dishes provided. However, you are welcome to bring side-dish vegetables, salads or desserts!

This event is a great opportunity to “give thanks” with friends and neighbors, as well as enjoying some mouth-watering good food! Any and all are welcome and encouraged to attend this event and New Strawn is thankful for the New Strawn Christian Church family for hosting this event each year!

Ducks Unlimited Banquet

The John Redmond Chapter of Ducks Unlimited (DU) Banquet fundraiser will be held Saturday, Nov. 4, at the New Strawn Community Building. Doors open and activities start at 5:30 p.m. Bring the family and enjoy games, raffles, auctions and an always delicious meal!

Every vote counts

Don’t forget to vote in the general election on Nov. 7! New Strawn residents will vote at the Community Building and polls will be open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Make sure you have your photo ID with as you will be asked to provide it.

New Strawn has three council positions up for election. Our city elections are “at large,” meaning the three candidates with the most votes are declared the winners.

It’s sometimes easy to feel as if your vote really doesn’t make a difference in the “big” elections, but at the local level, many times a race is decided by merely one vote! So, be sure your voice is heard this November and exercise that right to vote!

Lawn of the Month contest

New Strawn will once again be holding a “Lawn of the Month” contest for October and December. Winners will be awarded $25 in Chamber Bucks and will host the “Lawn of the Month” sign in their yard. Judging for the October contest will be on Oct. 20 and in December homes will be judged on the 15th.

City Hall closings

City Hall will be closed on Friday, Nov. 10, in observance of Veterans Day. City Hall will also be closed Nov. 23 and 24 for Thanksgiving, as well as Dec. 20 for Christmas and Monday, Jan. 1, for New Year’s Day. City Hall is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Strawnfest 2018

June 30, 2018 is the date that has been set for the new Strawnfest. The City is forming a Strawnfest Committee and WE NEED YOUR HELP! We already have several volunteers for the committee, but we’d like to see more involvement from others within our community. There will be a committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, at City Hall. We encourage anyone who’d like to be involved with planning Strawnfest to attend. We realize this is a busy time of year and if this date conflicts with other activities you have scheduled but you’d still like to join the committee, please contact City Hall at (620)364-6283 and let the city know. We’d like to hear your ideas, thoughts and input on how we can make this annual event more appealing and fun for all ages!

Thank you so much for your support and participation in making Strawnfest a great event!
SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL: Old Man Winter is on his way, so just a few reminders about the city’s inclement weather policy. 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. If your streets are parked in, it will be difficult to effectively treat the streets for icy conditions as well as impede snow removal.

The city will observe a snow removal policy implemented several years ago. Snow removal is determined by accumulation. Accumulation of less than 3 inches, designated emergency routes and school bus routes will be addressed without regard to snow, sleet or, and/or sand, treatment, possibly both. Other residential streets will be addressed after the emergency routes and school buses have been addressed.

FUR RACES NEED TO BE REGISTRATION: The New Year is just around the corner which means it’s almost time to register your dog or cat with the city. Animal licensing for the New Strawn area will be Friday, Feb. 16, and Saturday, Feb. 17 at City Hall. Licenses for 2018 need to be purchased at Cle B Lumber & Farm Supply and Coffey Health System.

Proceeds from this event will benefit local organizations. For more information about the Fur Race, please call City Hall at (620) 364-2121 ext. 242 or visit www.newstrawn.com.

FISHING LICENSES FOR 2018 NOW AVAILABLE: Fishing licenses are now available at City Hall. The license fee for a 2018 fishing license is $15.00. Children under 15 years of age, and the ages of 16 and up must also possess a trout stamp. The city fishing permit is required to fish in the city’s lake and is required to fish in the city’s lake and is required to fish in the city’s lake and is required to fish in the city’s lake and is required to fish in the city’s lake and is required to fish in the city’s lake and is required to fish in the city’s lake and is required to fish in the city’s lake and is required to fish in the city’s lake and is required to fish in the city’s lake and is required to fish in the city’s lake and is required to fish in the city’s lake. 7:15 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the New Strawn Community Building, or from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the New Strawn Community Building. No purchase, as well.

An unincorporated town, it is here that the city would like to congratulate Radiant Life Church and thank them for providing such a unique opportunity for our community and surrounding area! We feel fortunate that this church found a home within our city and appreciate their efforts to become involved with community events.

MOM’S TUXEDO: Radiant Life Church kicked off the OK Kids event this year by serving a free pancake breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the New Strawn Community Building on Saturday, Sept. 9. The church will also be hosting a men’s event with Dock Commander in West Monroe, La. A wild game lunch will be provided, at no cost prior to the event, with lunch at 11 a.m. at the New Strawn Community Building. Doors will open for the speaking event at 12:30 p.m. at Radiant Life Church which will be followed by Dock Commander in West Monroe, La. Tickets for the speaking event will be sold online at www.radiantks.com and even if not purchased, will be made available for purchase, as well.

Although this newsletter will probably not be around to wish you a happy New Year, the city would like to congratulate Radiant Life Church and thank them for providing such a unique opportunity for our community and surrounding area! We feel fortunate that this church found a home within our city and appreciate their efforts to become involved with community events.

THE STRAWN PLANNING COMMISSION.COMMMUNI- SION NEWS: The New Strawn Planning Commission continues to work on the city’s comprehensive plan and proposed new zoning and sub-division regulations. Work sessions were held on Aug. 14, Oct. 17 and the hope is that both the plan and regulations will be ready to present at a public hearing on the matter before the end of the year.

This has been a long and arduous process and the city would like to thank all previous and current Planning Commission members, council members, zoning administrators and city clerks who had a hand in making the reality of the New Strawn Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals, although considered a government entity because the members are appointed by the mayor and approved by, are NOT “paid employees” of the city. The members’ time and knowledge to help with the betterment of our community.

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

Robert Rahraker - Chairman
Deidra Doering - Vice Chairman (ex-territorial representative)
Robert Rahraker - Secretary
Mike Croll (animal-territorial representative)

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