

# New Strawn Notes

October/November 2017

## Annual NSCIO Halloween party

New Strawn Community Improvement Organization (NSCIO) will be holding their annual "spooktacular" Halloween 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, drink 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 fabulous decorations, the food prep, manning the games, drivers for the hayrack rides, the folks that donate candy and money for 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 1st. This year, there will be some added fun! We'll be Christmas caroling around town in a wagon from 5:45-6:45 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 7:15 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 kicking off the holiday season! If you would like to donate cookies, sandwiches, 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 Testamentary 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 be the sole funder of any project. They want to see significant city/resident support of any project for consideration. The city 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 improvements to the current Jones Park and would like to assist in making that a reality, please contact City Hall at (620)364-8283. We would like to begin the 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 to Hoover's and buy one. You'll swear your grandma made it! Welcome Wanda and Chad ... we're happy you chose New Strawn as your "hometown!"

## Strawnfest 2018

June 30, 2018 is the date that has been set for the next 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)364-8283 and let the city clerk 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!

### Community

#### Thanksgiving dinner

The New Strawn Christian Church will once again be hosting a community Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 12. 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 veggies, 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. 25 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.

**LIBRARY NEWS:** There's ALWAYS something exciting happening at the New Strawn Branch Library!

On Nov. 21 at 6:30 p.m., the library will have a Holiday Grocery Bingo!

Christmas is just around the corner and kids will once again be able to drop off their letters to Santa at the library! The library assures us that every kiddo's letter will be delivered to the "big guy" and he will send a personal response back!

The library will be "THE" place to be to make Christmas ornaments to hang on the City Christmas tree! The library also plans on adopting families again this year for Christmas. They will have a tree up with items that can be donated to help folks in our community have a Merry Christmas.

**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. Vehicles parked in the street make it 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 will be limited when accumulation is less than 3 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.

**FUR BABIES NEED TO BE REGISTERED:** The New Year is just around the corner which means it's almost time to register your dog or cat with the city. Animal licenses for 2018 need to be purchased at New Strawn City Hall by Jan. 31. You will need to bring your proof of rabies vaccination with you; you do NOT need to wait until it is time to have your pet vaccinated to register them. Simply bring in proof of the most recent rabies vaccination showing they are up-to-date. Some folks were under the impression they had to wait until after the vaccination date to come in and that just results in an increased fee for the registration. You can drop off an updated vaccine record at City Hall later in the year. Cost of registering your pet is: \$2 for animals that are spayed or neutered; \$5 for unaltered animals. Licenses are valid for the 2018 calendar year. If you forget to do it in January, don't panic. You can still get Fido or Fluffy registered in February or March, but the cost of the license doubles for each month you are late ... \$4 & \$10 in February, \$8 & \$20 in March.

Just a reminder, any owner or harbinger of an animal that is found to be without a current license may be fined up to \$500, plus any cost incurred by the city related to enforcing the animal code. Tagging your pet is really more for your "peace of mind" than anything. Even dogs and cats that live almost entirely in the house occasionally "escape" to the great outdoors and a tag makes it so much easier to reunite an owner with an animal!

Please, do NOT attempt to venture out onto the icy lake to fish. Shoreline fishing is permissible ... ice fishing is not.

The city is VERY grateful to Casey's, Circle B Lumber & Farm Supply and Coffey County Honda in assisting us with the sale of city fishing permits. City Hall isn't open on the weekends and closes at 2:30 p.m., so these businesses offer would-be anglers a place to purchase a permit when City Hall is closed.

**NEW STRAWN PLANNING COMMISSION 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. 24 and 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 this a reality. 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 council, are NOT "paid employees" of the city, but rather volunteers who give of their time and knowledge to help with the betterment of our community.

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

Richard Croll – Chairman  
Doug Feldhausen – Vice Chairman (extra-territorial representative)

Robert Harkrader - Secretary  
Mike Skillman (extra-territorial representative)

Seat #5, previously held by Ron Strawder, is currently vacant.

Carl Ware is the current Zoning Administrator.

**LET'S ADDRESS THE ISSUE:** For those who may still be unaware, New Strawn's post office closed on July 1, 2017. Consequently, City Hall had an address change from our former P.O. Box to:

215 N. Main St.

The post office closure and address change was conveyed to customers on our website, in the last newsletter, at the bottom of every water bill, in the newspaper and at meetings, but City Hall is still experiencing an issue with folks using our old address. This is resulting in water payments not arriving by the due date of the 10th. We have waived late fees if a mailed payment was received within 1-2 days of the date due and had been addressed erroneously. However, as of Oct. 1, we no longer waive late fees for folks who are continuing to use our old PO Box address.

**NEW STRAWN BUSINESS RECEIVES GRANT:** Kansas State University has partnered with the Kansas Department of Commerce and Kansas State Bank to offer entrepreneurs across the state of Kansas the ability to access funding to help develop new ideas or grow Kansas-based goods-producing businesses. This grant program seeks to support the development of new business opportunities across the state that have the potential to generate revenue through product sales and create jobs in the near future. Grant awards from \$5,000 up to \$15,000 will be made on a case by case basis and will be judged on the strength of the application by a K-State advisory panel and approved by the Kansas Department of Commerce. New Strawn's very own Great Plains Design Center recently received a \$10,000 grant to help with marketing of their recycled glass counter tops, which are amazingly beautiful, by the way, as are all the other products that Great Plains crafts! If you've never seen their showroom, you've got to pay them a visit! Congratulations and we expect amazing things to unfold for Great Plains Design Center in the near future!

**BUDDIES OPEN FOR LUNCH:** Not only is Buddies THE place to be for "Taco Tuesdays" and grilled-to-order ribeye's on Saturday evenings, it is now open for lunch! Stop in for a delicious noon-time meal. Watch the sign out front for other yummy specials throughout the week such as their chicken fried chicken and prime rib dip sandwiches!

**MEETING AND NEWSLETTER NOTIFICATIONS:** The public is always welcome to attend all city council and city planning meetings. City council meet-

ings are conducted in the open 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. The city will notify individuals of regular and special governing body meetings or changes to regular meeting dates and times, if requested to do so. If you would like to be on our email notification list, or if you would like to receive this newsletter via email, leave your name and email address with the city clerk, or click the link on our website, newstrawn.org, to sign up that way. If you have been on a past list or are currently on our notification list, you must renew your request annually on or after Jan. 1.

\*NOTE: You MUST include your name with any requests 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.

**RADIANT LIFE CHURCH HELPS WITH OK KIDS AND BRINGS 'CELEBRITY' TO TOWN:** Radiant Life Church helped kick off the OK Kids event this year by serving a free pancake breakfast from 7:15 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 Duck Commander's John Godwin on Saturday, Oct. 21, in New Strawn. Godwin will speak to men of all ages on the topic of "Faith, Family, Ducks – in that order". Godwin is a regular cast member of the record-breaking Duck Dynasty television show and is the shipping manager at Duck 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 is located at 139 1st Terrace in New Strawn. Tickets for the speaking event will be sold online at [www.radiantks.com](http://www.radiantks.com) and event T-shirts will be made available for purchase, as well.

Although this newsletter will probably reach most readers after this event, 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.

**MONSTER DASH:** Coffey Health Foundation will be holding a 5K Monster Dash Oct. 28 in New Strawn. The dash, which will be an untimed Coffey County Wellness Circuit event, starts at 8:30 p.m. with 7 p.m. on-site registration at Buddies, LLC, 255 N. Main St., New Strawn. Or, you can register by calling (620)364-2121 Ext. 4222. The course, which will start and end at Buddies, includes 2.5 miles on the Prairie Winds Golf Course cart paths (bring your own flashlights and minors 14 and under must be accompanied by an adult). Costumes are encouraged and judging for "best ghou" will be at 8 p.m. with the winners announced after the dash. Entry fee is \$25. There will also be a silent auction and donations are welcome as well! Proceeds from this event will benefit local scholarships and enhancements throughout Coffey Health System.

**TROUT FISHING:** The city has plans to stock New Strawn City Lake with trout around late January. A city fishing permit is required to fish in the city's lake and can be purchased at City Hall, Casey's, Circle B Lumber & Farm Supply and Coffey County Honda. A valid Kansas state fishing license is also required. City fishing permits are sold with a trout stamp through May 1 at the following cost: USD 244 (Burlington and New Strawn area) residents – Adult \$10, Youth \$4. Residents living outside of USD 244 will pay \$15 for an adult license and \$6 for youth. Anyone at least 16 years old must also possess a Kansas state fishing license.