

New Strawn Notes

February 2016

Don't forget to tag your pets

It's time to renew your animal licenses for 2017. 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 February are \$4.00 for a spayed or neutered animal and \$10.00 for un-

spayed or unneutered pets. The fee will go up again the first of March to \$8.00 for spayed/neutered animals and \$20.00 for unfixed dogs and cats.

A benefit of registering your animals 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.

Trout have arrived

New Strawn City Lake has recently been 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. There are also some lunkers waiting to be caught ranging in weight from 3 to 8 pounds.

Besides a current Kansas fishing license, a city fishing permit is required to fish in the City Lake. A trout stamp is also required if you're hoping to catch your daily creel limit of two. There is a "No Catch and Release" provision in effect for the trout. Once they have been hooked, they will die.

City fishing permits and trout stamps are available at City Hall as well as Casey's General Store, 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 out-of-county and out-of-state anglers 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 cityclerk@newstrawn.org. We'll happily display it on our bragging wall.

Planning Commission to meet

The New Strawn Planning Commission will meet at 7 p.m. Feb. 23 at City Hall to begin work on the city's proposed new zoning regulations and subdivision regulations. New Strawn has been working on a Comprehensive Plan for several years, and it is nearing completion. The final piece of the "puzzle" will be integrating the new regulations into the plan. The New Strawn Planning Commission and City Council will meet jointly on March 3 with Foster & Associates Planning at the Community Building to finalize the plan and "tweak" the new zoning regulations. Both meetings are open and the public is welcome to attend.

The current members of the New Strawn Planning Commission and

Board of Zoning Appeals are: Richard Croll- chairman, Mike Skillman, Robert Harkrader, Doug Feldhausen and Ron Strawder. These gentlemen volunteer their time and energy and we appreciate their dedication! Carl Ware is the city's zoning administrator and he is doing a fantastic job! We feel very fortunate to have him in this position!

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 building permit applications, to download and print.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt planned

New Strawn Community Improvement Organization (NSCIO) will be hosting the annual New Strawn Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 15, at the New Strawn Community Building. 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 some 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. Please 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!

Breakfast fundraiser

Coffey County Fire District No. 1 firefighters from the New Strawn Fire Station will be holding a breakfast fundraiser Saturday, April 15, at the New Strawn Fire Station, starting at 7 a.m. and going until "whenever." 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 station ... and to gorge yourself on some truly delicious food!

Post Office Hours

Lobby hours for the post office are Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m. The post office is open on Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Contact City Hall

Phone (620) 364-8283

Fax: (620) 364-5110

Email: newstrawncityclerk@embarqmail.com

Web: www.newstrawn.org

LAWN OF THE MONTH: There was some stiff competition last fall for “Lawn of the Month,” but Jodi Bahr, 306 W. Cherokee, ended up snagging the prize. Jodi never fails to adorn her yard with fun and whimsical holiday décor and really went all out for Halloween last year! Thanks, Jodi, and everyone else who made fall in New Strawn a “spooktacular” event!

New Strawn had our own version of “The Great Christmas Light Fight” going on throughout the month of December! 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! Council really had their work cut out for them to pick just one recipient for “Lawn of the Month” but chose Mike and Deb Stuke’s residence at 1020 N. Arrowhead. The Stuke’s had a display that would have put ol’ Clark Griswold’s to shame! Thanks to everyone who put up some beautiful lights and fun displays for young and old alike to enjoy! Not only did you help spread some Christmas cheer, you also attracted some visitors to town who came to see the lights!

STRAWNFEST/CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE: Plans are underway for Strawnfest 2017, which will be held June 24. Some old favorites will be returning, including the car show sponsored by Trophies and Things, antique tractor parade, kids fishing derby, money hunt, free inflatables, free picnic, live music and fireworks. The citywide garage sale is also planned for that day, as well as several other fun activities yet to be finalized. If you would like to help out with Strawnfest, contact City Hall at 364-8283.

A ‘TAXING’ PROBLEM: Several months ago one of our council members noticed they were being assessed a “city sales tax” on their Mediacom bill. Upon further investigation and after sifting through previous billing statements, they ascertained that a city sales tax had been assessed to their account for months and months. Since New Strawn does not have any such tax, they immediately called Mediacom to straighten the error out and then alerted the city clerk of the problem. After several phone conversations and assurances from the city that we do NOT have a city sales tax, Mediacom issued a reimbursement. The city clerk was told that it was simply a matter of the wrong tax code being assigned to this particular account in Mediacom’s system, an error due in large part to our “shared” zip code with Burlington.

We are bringing this to everyone’s attention that may be a Mediacom customer so that you can double check your own billing statements to ensure you also haven’t been assessed this tax. If you have, notify Mediacom of the error and insist on a reimbursement.

Mediacom isn’t the only business/utility company that has mistakenly assessed a city sales tax to New Strawn residents in the past, so it might be a good idea to take a long, hard look at ALL your billing statements. Sometimes it’s easy to miss as it is buried in a column of other various charges and fees in teeny-tiny print, but usually will be listed directly under “state tax.”

NEW BUSINESS IN TOWN: We are pleased to announce that Advantage Auto Body, 145 N. Main Street, is now open for business. The new owner,

Aaron Withers, has extensive previous experience in the auto body repair business and guarantees you’ll be satisfied with his work! New Strawn welcomes this new business to town!

LOCAL BUSINESS TO CHANGE OWNERSHIP: Buddies Bar & Grill will be going through some changes in the next few months. But don’t worry, the Brutus Burger isn’t going anywhere! Martin and Kathy Smith have decided to sell the business and the new owner, Robert Splawn, has assured us that the delicious food that we’ve all grown to love (and crave!) will pretty much remain the same. However, what will change is the drink menu. Mr. Splawn has obtained a state alcohol license, as well as a city Drinking Establishment permit, which will enable Buddies to sell “liquor by the drink.” In other words, you will be able to enjoy a cocktail with your meal, just like you can at Applebee’s or Chili’s. Beer will still be served as well.

We’d like to take this time to thank Martin and Kathy for giving us Buddies Bar & Grill and their years of dedication to a business that has become somewhat of a New Strawn “icon.” We’ll miss the Smiths, but we wish them well! The new owner will officially take over on May 1, but for now, it’s “business as usual” at Buddies, so please continue to support this beloved local business! And remember, if nothing ever changed, there’d be no butterflies!

DUCKS UNLIMITED: The John Redmond Chapter of Ducks Unlimited will be hosting the annual “Sportsman Night Out” Banquet April 1 at the New Strawn Community Building. All proceeds from this always well-attended event are used for Wetland Preservation. If you would like more information about the event, please contact Chairperson Julie Scott at (620) 794-6939.

COFFEY COUNTY LIBRARY - NEW STRAWN BRANCH NEWS: There’s always something fun and exciting going on at New Strawn’s library, for children AND adults!

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.

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

Coffee and Colors (yes, adults LOVE to color!) is every Saturday at 10 a.m.

Book Club (another great adult activity) – Stop by to see what the book of the month is! The library holds a discussion once a month!

More upcoming activities include:

☛ Grocery Bingo – March 14 at 6:30 p.m. Come play for a chance to win some groceries! This is a FREE activity but donations are happily accepted!

☛ Spring Break Activities – March 17-24 Stop in to the library to see what’s going on during spring break!

☛ Pinterest Party – Feb. 23 @ 3:30 p.m. – Recipe Book

☛ Pinterest Party – March 23 @ 3:30 p.m. – Memo Board

☛ Pinterest Party – April 27 @ 3:30 p.m. – Seedbombs

☛ Pinterest Party – May 25 @ 3:30 p.m. – Basket Planter

The Summer Reading Program logging will start May 1. The Summer Reading Kick-Off Party will be May 31. Check with the library for details.

The library will have children and

young adult programs offered all summer long!

The library has also added a few new things this year. Stop by to check out the new “makers space” and see what is new on the kids table. There are new items coming in weekly! Don’t forget, they also have movies you can check out! You can even place that “new release” that you’ve been waiting to see on hold.

SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL: 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.

MEETING AND NEWSLETTER NOTIFICATIONS: The public is always welcome to attend all city council and city planning meetings. City council meetings are conducted in the open the second Thursday of each month. While the public does not participate in meeting business, a portion of each regular monthly meeting is designated for public comments. The city will notify individuals of 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 notification list, or if you would like to receive this newsletter via email, leave your name, phone number, mailing address and/or email address with the City Clerk. 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.

New Strawn Governing Body:

- Mayor Mark Petterson
- Jim Weeks, council president
- Bobby Bryant, council member
- Kraig Kirchner, council member
- Jeanne Haas, council member
- Gary Haehn, council member

City Employees

- Kerry Templeton, city clerk
- Ron Parkey, city superintendent/water operator
- Steven Dwight, maintenance/code enforcement/animal control
- Brenda Klubek treasurer
- Doris McBride, assistant clerk
- Care Ware, zoning administrator

New Strawn Planning and Zoning Board:

- Richard Croll, chairman
- Robert Harkrader
- Doug Feldhausen
- Mike Skillman
- Ron Strawder