

New Strawn Notes

July 2017

Perfect day for Strawnfest 2017

The weather could not have been more perfect for folks to come out and enjoy Strawnfest on June 24 this year!

Crowds were out and about early in town shopping for deals and one-of-a-kind bargains at the citywide garage sales.

A new event this year was the Blaze the Trail Walk at 8 a.m. Over 40 walkers and runners christened the new walk/bike trail which originates just south of the New Strawn City Lake and Park and meanders southward toward the Neosho River.

The annual car show, sponsored by Trophies & Things, began at 9 a.m. and by noon the east and south side of the city park was filled with classic cars and trucks. Young and old alike enjoyed ogling the “oldies but goodies” on display throughout the day.

Not to be outdone by the fancy cars, the annual Antique Tractor Parade through town showcased some dandy looking specimens of farm equipment from days gone by.

The kids’ fishing derby had a turnout of over 40 kids ranging in ages from 1-14! The kids showed up to test their skill at angling the first fish caught, the biggest fish caught and the most fish caught in inches in their age category! Prizes, such as new fishing poles, tackle boxes, fish nets, etc. were handed out to the winners. A BIG thanks to the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism officers who were on hand to offer expert advice and assist the kiddos as the fish were caught. FREE catch and release fishing in the City Lake was permitted from noon to 5 p.m.

Hot Wheels Racing, which seems to grow in popularity each year, was at 2 p.m. Kids AND adults enjoyed racing the Hot Wheels car of their choosing. Citizens State Bank sponsors this event, which is organized and made possible by Trophies & Things, and what a lot of fun it is! Lots of trophies were handed out to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place

winners of each heat!

Citizens State Bank also sponsored the Kids Money Hunt at 3 p.m. They managed to find a shady spot under a tree and a good turnout of kids of various ages enjoyed searching through a large pile of straw for “treasure.” Many thanks to Citizens State Bank for their generosity and time!

The New Strawn Branch of the Coffey County Library had a putt-putt golf course set up in the park for kids to have fun and New Strawn Fire Station once again had fun with water guns and a splash pool this year! Free inflatables for kids to play on arrived at 3 p.m. and were a hub of activity until they departed around 7 p.m.

A free picnic in the park at 6 p.m. saw folks chowing down on hot dogs, chips and shaved ice treats! Almost 300 “dogs” were grilled and handed out to picnickers!

Highway 75 Band serenaded folks with some great country music for several hours before the day’s festivities at the park culminated in a fireworks display provided by Big Daddy’s Fireworks. As usual, Big Daddy did not disappoint and treated folks to a nearly 25-minute show!

A final big “thank you” to everyone who donated time, money or other items to keep this annual event going! Your generous nature is much appreciated!

Thank you **BAHR TIRE * COFFEY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE * COFFEY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT * HOOVER’S THRIFTWAY * WCNOC * SKILLMAN CONSTRUCTION * CASEY’S GENERAL STORE * SONIC * CITIZENS STATE BANK * NEW STRAWN FIRE STATION * NEW STRAWN BRANCH OF COFFEY COUNTY LIBRARY * HAAS OIL * GARY AND SUE HAEHN * BOBBY AND TONYA BRYANT * JIM AND ILLA WEEKS * BIG DADDY’S FIREWORKS * BOB SAUERESSIG * ECKAN * TRUST-POINT INSURANCE.**

Walking and running safety

As a reminder, if you walk, jog or bike after dark or early in the morning, PLEASE make sure you are VISIBLE to others if you are in the street. Wear reflective or light-colored clothing, carry a light of some sort, do

something so that you are noticeable to any motorists that may come upon you. Dark-colored clothing absorbs light so try to wear white, bright yellow or some other color that will reflect off headlights.

Drive-in Movie Night

The 4th annual New Strawn Branch Library Drive-In Movie Night will be Aug. 5 at John Redmond Reservoir Riverside West. They will be showing the movie “Moana” and serving pulled pork sandwiches. Also, the community helpers will be on hand (fire, ambulance, helicopter and water rescue) for the kids to get acquainted with, as well as other fun activities! Things get started at 6 p.m. and the movie will begin at dusk – 8:30 p.m. (ish). Bring your lawn chairs and blankets, or enjoy the movie from your car! The week prior to the event, kids can come to the library to decorate cardboard boats to sit in at the movie. This is a FREE event for all ages, but donations and volunteer helpers are always welcome!

OK KIDS in September

The Outdoor Kansas for Kids Coffey County (OK Kids) will be held Sept. 8-10. The City of New Strawn participates in this event each year by allowing a catch-and-release fishing tournament at New Strawn City Lake. Radiant Life Church will also host a pancake feed 6 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 9, at the New Strawn Community Building for all the hungry anglers! OK Kids provides fun and entertaining outdoor events to help instill a better appreciation of the great outdoors in kids. For more information about this annual Coffey County event, go to www.okkidscc.com, or like them on Facebook, OK Kids – Coffey County.

Street maintenance

Bettis Asphalt & Construction, Inc., formerly SE-KAN, has been contracted to perform asphalt patching and overlay work later this summer for Main Street/Arrowhead Drive (from Decker Street to 17th Rd.) and 1st Terrace (from Osage St. to Getz St.) Work should commence within the next several weeks.

More useful information for residents

New Strawn Branch Library news

There's ALWAYS something fun and exciting going on at the library for all ages to enjoy!

Children's Storytime is every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Lapsit is every Thursday at 11:15 a.m. and Discovery Time is every Friday at 10:30 a.m.

The End of Summer Reading Pool Party at the Burlington outdoor pool will be held 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 9! This is a FREE event for ALL ages!

For adults, there's Fiber Arts every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. as well as the Book Club. On July 27, at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., stop in to discuss and share your thoughts on "The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion" by Fannie Flagg. You can check out a copy of the book at the library! The book club will also meet at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Aug. 31, but the book title has not yet been determined.

And don't forget the Pinterest Parties, every fourth Thursday of each month at 3:30 p.m. Here's what's on the agenda: July 27 – Bath Pouf; Aug. 24 – Painted Tic Tac Toe Rocks; Sept. 28 – Panel Painting; Oct. 26 – Fall Leaf Hanger; Nov. 16 – Folded Book Angel; Dec. 21 – Stone Hot Pad. Don't forget, any time you need a break from "adulting," stop by the library for some stress-relieving adult color time in a nice, quiet happy place! :)

Also, check with the library for their next Grocery Bingo. Plays just like regular bingo but the prizes are grocery items!

Call 364-8910, or email newstrawn@cclibks.org with any questions you might have. Also, feel free to stop by the library to say "hi" to Monica and Vanessa!

No dumping

It has come to the attention of the City that folks have been using the dumpster at the Community Building as if it were the county landfill. Trash bags, boxes, broken appliances and even furniture have recently been spotted spilling over the sides and top of the dumpster. As a reminder, the dumpster at the community building is NOT for public use. It is placed there so those who rent the community building have a place to dispose of any trash they generate. It was never intended to be used as a "dumping ground" for stuff you don't want anymore, or items that came from the depths of your garage after you cleaned it. That's what the county landfill is for. So, please, be courteous and stop treating the dumpster as if it were your own private, giant trash can.

Zoning news

As a reminder, New Strawn is a zoned city and has (and enforces) zoning regulations. Permits are required for most projects, including new homes and additions, storage sheds and accessory buildings larger than 10'x12', fences, driveways, pools and some signs. The permitting process has been "stream-lined" and no longer requires council's approval. The Zoning Administrator, City Superintendent and Code Enforcement Officer ensure all permits are in order and in compliance with zoning regulations and City Code before approving a permit. This means folks no longer have to wait (sometimes weeks) to have a building permit approved at the next City Council meeting.

Also, New Strawn has specific zoning districts, so it's always a good idea to make sure your project is allowable in the zone you wish to build in or start a business in. If you are told your project is a "no go" you always have the right to appeal the decision or request a change in zoning or a variance or special use. Those cases are heard by our Board of Zoning Appeals, who then make a recommendation to Council as to whether to approve or disapprove a request.

Current members of the New Strawn Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals are Richard Croll – chairman, Mike Skillman, Doug Feldhausen, Robert Harkrader and Ron Strawder.

New Strawn post office closes

As of July 1, the New Strawn post office officially closed for business. The closure came on the heels of the recent illness and hospitalization of Lonnie Hoskins, who contracted to run the post office. His return to work seemed unlikely. Folks with boxes rented (the city included) had the option of renting a box at the Burlington post office, or erecting a mailbox at their residence or place of business. The city opted to put up a mailbox and all correspondence to City Hall will now need to be addressed to: City of New Strawn, 215 N. Main St., New Strawn, KS 66839.

Mr. Hoskins will be missed around here and we want to thank him for the years of service he gave to the City of New Strawn keeping a post office open! His sunny demeanor, ready smile (or joke) and love of Royals baseball helped brighten the day of those he came into contact with. He didn't just sell stamps and mail letters ... he peddled infectious cheerfulness and genuine warmth to his patrons. We wish him all the best.

Mayor makes appointments

At the May regular council meeting, Mayor Petterson recommended the following appointments and designations: Janell Templeton – City Clerk; Brenda Klubek – City Treasurer; Denise McNabb – City Attorney; Ron Parkey – Building Inspector; Carl Ware – Zoning Administrator; Jim Weeks – Council Liaison to Planning Commission & Board of Zoning Appeals; Citizens State Bank – Official City Depository; The Coffey County Republican – Official Newspaper. Council ratified the mayor's appointments with a 5-0 vote. Mayor Petterson also recommended the reappointment of Richard Croll and Mike Skillman to the New Strawn Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals. Their terms will expire May 31, 2020. These appointments were also approved by Council on a 5-0 vote.

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.

NEW STRAWN GOVERNING BODY

Mayor – Mark Petterson
Council Members:
Jim Weeks – Council President
Jeanne Haas
Bobby Bryant
Gary Haehn
Kraig Kirchner

CITY EMPLOYEES

City Clerk – Kerry Templeton
City Superintendent/Water Operator – Ron Parkey
Maintenance – Steven Dwight
Treasurer – Brenda Klubek
Assistant Clerk – Doris McBride
Zoning Administrator – Carl Ware
Clerk's Assistant – Robert Williamson

Contact City Hall

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