

Desk of the Mayor

Tinman & Mayor Rose Johnson

There are a number of items that are in need of being addressed. The election of course, the candidates, and the questions that many of you have for me. First and foremost, on Saturday afternoon, we as a community shall vote again to determine the mayor of Horizon Stronghold.

To readdress what happened, we gathered as a town to hear the many testimonials of Horizon Stronghold's candidates for mayor several months ago. Of those candidates were myself, Rose Johnson, Maraxxis, Lanlan and the Ear of Corn.

After the votes were cast and the results were announced, it was found that the votes had been tampered with, and thus the election was deemed rigged. This was formally announced at our last town meeting for those who may have not been present. I was not meant to receive the title of mayor. However, I still stand firm and ready to serve the town in every way a mayor, and a matriarch, is able to do. Above all I value honesty, integrity, and loyalty.

Horizon Stronghold is a community with an abundance of potential and diversity. It practically bursts at the seams with the bountiful knowledge and experience our citizens have. It's truly been a blessing to get to know the citizens of this town as striking, unique individuals.

However I digress. As mentioned above, there shall be a revote at our next town meeting that shall include all the former candidates stated previously above: Maraxxis, myself, Lanlan and the Ear of Corn. The votes shall be counted and the winner announced shortly thereafter.

Despite it all, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve this town as the mayor. I hope that I will continue to prove myself worthy of this privilege, but regardless this is my home and I want nothing more than to bring this community closer together through a bond of mutual trust.

If you have any questions for myself, I ask that you please ask me directly.

Thank you

County Seat Town Meeting

By Thuun

Rumors had been circulating that several witches who had undergone Ozmas re-formation procedures had fallen back into their previous state as wicked. These rumors have been confirmed. There have been a number of reports of wicked witches leading undead, but the people feel confident that the scarecrows army and Civil Authority are capable of keeping the good people safe. By order of the trifacta, and wicked witches are to be killed on site. Non-authority figures are not required to take action other than to quickly and safely report the sighting. It seems that the good people of Oz are eager to see what the new Ozma will accomplish that will earn her name. As times change, it's important to remember to look out for your fellow Ozian.

Sinister serpent strikes unsuspecting citizenry

By Thuun

The county seat has become the target for many nefarious individuals who seek to do harm to the good people of Oz. Perhaps one of the greatest challenges yet, was confronting a walking corpse of the damned Who is so old that their age cannot be determined. This Lich was responsible for the fires that burned down a nearby forest, attempting to drive out its guardian, a great forest spirit. While this ageless fiend had its sights on the forest spirits power, The town of horizon stronghold rallied together around the forest spirit to strike down this evil. Through a grueling battle against an army of undead, the town was led by town mayor Axel and Marshal Thomas, and by nights end the Lich known as The Serpent was defeated and banished.

Civil Authority

No articles, advertising, or opinions shall be presented promoting a violent, subversive agenda or actively encouraging and contributing to civil unrest.

Wandering wicked wannabes wreck relaxation

By Thuun

While the county seat of horizon stronghold was enjoying a peaceful and beautiful day, they received some unfamiliar visitors with some alarming agendas. Claiming that they had been recruited by a father Johnson, and given gems of resurrection, several wicked witches simply walked into town attempting to convert all witches to wicked. The incompetence of these individuals was nothing short of tragic. These individuals had been approached with an offer of power, and were two fool hearty to understand what it was that they were accepting. These wicked witches were clearly nothing more than pawns in the game of wicked witches, and they were being used to recruit more ignorant and foolish individuals. The wicked witches were immediately dispatched by the authorities. A reminder for everyone that all wicked witches are kill on sight.

Artificers Guild

By Thuun

The Artificer's Guild was originally sponsored by the Great Fairy Lurline to provide a fair governing body for magic users in Oz. Many well known witches, wizards, and Immortals of ages past belonged to this guild. Ozma disbanded the guild when she wrongfully banned magic use aside from herself and a select few. However, Oz is made of magic, and everybody capable of magic should be allowed to learn to use it safely and responsibly. To that end, Brian and Evelin await your support at the outpost for Scarcrows army in Horizon county. Their hope is to revive this great guild, unite magic, and make this a safe home for all magic users. The duo is currently in the process of going through the proper bureaucratic channels and welcomes all individuals interested to join to just talk.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From the people The Stronghold Gazette does not endorse any statement in letter to editor section

For Science!

Alchemy, Magic, Why do they have to be separate, why don't they mix. No one has ever been able to accomplish such a feat. The real question though is can it be done? Is there one who will light the way? I say yes, there is one who will not be bound by the laws of nature or otherwise, and it is I, for I am the true Alchemy. Come my children of science and magic come find me and we will unravel the great mysteries together.

-Prof. Alchemy-

Your Mayor is Miffed Citizens,

As your duly elected mayor within the township of Horizon's Stronghold, I am extremely disappointed by this travesty of a planned mayoral re-election. You all should feel deeply ashamed by your treacherous, treasonous, and traitorous decision. I strongly encourage all loyal citizens to reconsider this choice.

Most Sincerely,

Miraxis the Magnificent, Mayor

The Artificers Belong to the Wicked

There is only one Artificers Guild, and it belongs to the Wicked Witches. This talk of a new Artificers Guild for all magic users is simply wishful thinking by light witches. Do not be fooled.

Are you looking to keep warm on these cold spring days? Do you have shawls that are tattered and worn? My handcrafted pelts are unique and one of a kind.

They are unlike any pelts you have ever seen!

Each pelt has a different magical property.

Whether you will choose a pelt that will bring good fortune, or beauty that is a mystery that you will have to discover!

Each purchase comes with a free gift for first time customers as a special thank you for buying with me. My exquisite pelts have been talked about all over the Emerald City.

They have even been featured in the popular newsletter, The Emerald Times, where a prominent lady (Miss Petrificus) wore my featured fox pelt around the city! There is a long wait list, so get your pelts before they are gone!

I will be in Horizons Stronghold on Saturday during the market.



~ Your Friendly Fur Trader, Roland Tiwaz
Fine Furs Furnished



For Legitimate Peer-Reviewed Science!

Are you a life-long learner? Lacking the resources to really make that award winning and life changing project get off the ground? Do you enjoy spending hours alone with nothing but books?

The Ivory Tower is finally opening its doors to the public at large. Our ranks include academics, philosophers, researchers, students, and artists of all stripes. We are also happy to work alongside and share our resources with members of other guilds in their academic endeavors.

For students interested in joining, please speak with your local representative about submitting your application and letter of intent. If you have some expertise in a field of study or a project in mind, your local representative can assist you with contacting the appropriate parties and beginning the academic process.

I look forward to working with you all on your future endeavors!

Associate Professor Romneya Acantha

THE

Coffee, Cookies, and Showers At

EMPIORIUM



Town laws

Town's motto:

"Do no harm and no harm shall come to you."

Positions of authority:

In order to be eligible for a position in the land of Oz, one must be a Citizen.

Mayor: The elected leader of the town who has authority that supersedes all other government positions. The mayor is still subject to the law. If the mayor is unable to fulfill their duty the judge takes up the mayor's duties until a new elected official can be chosen. The mayor receives a

bimonthly salary of 4 bits for their service.

Judge: An elected official who oversees all trials and decides innocence or guilt. If the judge is unable to fulfill their duty the sheriff takes up the judge's duties until a new elected official can be chosen. The judge receives a bimonthly salary of 3 bits for their service.

Sheriff: An elected official who commands the local law enforcement, while defending and enforcing the laws. If the sheriff is unable to fulfill their duty the deputy takes up the sheriff's duties until a new elected official can be chosen. The sheriff receives a

bimonthly salary of 3 bits for their service.

Deputy: The 2nd in command in local law enforcement. The deputy receives a bimonthly salary of 2 bits for their service.

Officer: An officer is a member of the local law enforcement and are chosen by the sheriff or deputy. An officer receives a bimonthly salary of 1 bit for their service.

Law Enforcement:

The members of the local law enforcement are entrusted to uphold and enforce the law. Law enforcement can be identified by the Star worn on their lapel. Special Service to the Ruler of Oz wear a silver star. National officers such as Tin Men wear a tin star. Local officers such as the Sheriff, Deputy, and his Officers wear a brass or copper star. Temporary officers, when required, wear a cloth star. In the line of duty an officer should strive to defend the laws and the people by non-lethal means. An officer may see a situation where lethal force is warranted and this grim duty is lawful in defense of the law. An officer may arrest anyone suspected of a crime for two hours for questioning. At the end of the two hours the suspect must be charged and awaiting trial or released. Trials should be swift and held within 24 hours of the arrest, circumstances permitting.

Elections:

Every Autumn, the position of mayor is put to a vote. All citizens are expected to participate in the voting process. Once elected, the Mayor has the option of placing the position of Judge, Sheriff or Deputy up for election, whose Election takes place in Spring. Voting counts as follows:

Citizens vote count as one vote

Changeling Citizens count as 2/3rd vote

Non-Citizens count as 1/2 vote

Changeling Non-Citizens do not get to vote.

Whomever has the most votes at the end of the election wins.

Death of an official: In the unfortunate circumstances that an officer dies, a special election will be held 2 months after. Should he be returned as a construct, he may fulfill his duty until the election is completed. He may not return to his position until he regains his citizenship.

Citizenship:

With the recent opening of Oz's borders, and the rise in threats from outside forces, it is necessary to have a path to citizenship. In order to make all equitable under the law, eligibility to citizenship applies to all living within the borders of Oz.

Humans living in Oz before the Great Spell faded are granted automatic citizenship.

A non-citizen must have a sponsor for citizenship. The sponsor agrees to pay an equal fine should the non-citizen commit any crimes. Sponsorship lasts a minimum of 6 months.

Upon completing Sponsorship, The non-citizen and sponsor meet before a judge. The Sponsor announces that the non-citizen is worthy of citizenship, the non-citizen makes an oath of fealty to the Nation of Oz. Character witnesses may then speak on behalf or against the non-citizen. The Judge had the final word on granting citizenship to the non-citizen. Should the non-citizen fail to pass citizenship, he may attempt the process again with a new sponsor.

A newly formed Construct does not retain his Citizenship that he held in life, and must seek it anew.

Nomes are forbidden from acting as sponsors. Changeling must have a Certificate of Domesticity before they may seek sponsorship.

Laws:

Fines are doubled for non-Citizens. If a non-Citizen is sponsored, His sponsor pays half of the fine, and he pays half of the fine. Non-Domesticated Changeling are not tolerated within the borders of Oz. Changeling who break the laws lose their Certificate of Domestication. If they are not Domesticated and they commit a crime, they are to be put down.

1. Any act of assault will be dealt with by a fine of 4 bits, 75% of which will go to the victim and no less than 24 hours in jail. Assault is defined as doing physical, spiritual, or severe emotional harm to an individual. Manipulation of free will through magical or other means is also seen as assault.

2. Any act of assault with clear intent to kill will be dealt with by a fine of 12 bits, 75% of which will go to the victim and no less than one month in the local jail.

3. Any act of murder will be dealt with by a fine of 5 Emeralds, 75% of which will go to the victim's next of kin and no less than 6 months in the local jail. The punishment for murder can also include execution but this must be signed off on by the mayor, judge, and sheriff.

4. Any act of theft will be dealt with by a fine of Twice the value of the stolen item, 75% of which will go to the victim.

5. Any act that results in the willful destruction or damaging of property will be dealt with by a fine of Twice the value of the damaged property, 75% of which will go to the victim.

6. Any act that interferes with local law enforcement will be dealt with by a fine of 4 bits.

7. Any act of public drunkenness or recklessness will be dealt with by a fine of 3 bits.

8. The casting of involuntary necromancy (raising the dead) will be dealt with by a fine of 2 Emeralds and no less than 3 months in jail.

9. Creation of a construct without the permission of the constructed party will be dealt with by a fine of 2 Emeralds, 75% of which will go to the victim and no less than 3 months in jail.

10. An deliberately wrongful accusations of a crime will be dealt with by a fine of 4 bits, 75% of which will go to the victim.

11. Unregistered Witches Pose a serious threat to the Nation of Oz. A discovered, unregistered witch will be fined 8 bit and no less than 1 month in Jail.

12. Acts of Treason will not be tolerated. Anyone found guilty of Treason will pay a fine of 5 Emeralds and no less than 1 year in the local jail. The punishment for Treason can also include execution but this must be signed off on by the mayor, judge, and sheriff.

13. Anyone found aiding, abiding, or not reporting suspicious activity will be met with a fine of 4 bits. If they are doing so on behalf of a traitor, the fine is raised to 2 Emeralds, and can lead to 3 months Jail time.

CONT NEXT PAGE



Snickers Bits

Q: Let's say, you have a real high opinion of someone but turns out, maybe they told a big lie and now everything's all SCREWED up. Can I say BAD THINGS in print? LURLINE, this is real confusin'. I don't know the rules for this POPPYCOCK. Anyway, let's also say they also bought you a ring for bein' a good friend to them and told you that you were real special and everything. Now I'm all confused about what I'm supposed to think. Help!

A: Now now, the only people that stoop to that sort of language are Silly Marshalls! It sounds like they want you to give them a hat, you mustn't do it though, it's bad luck to give a ring in exchange for a hat.

Q: I have a friend that I really look up to, but none of my other friends seem to like him very much. He's really helpful and can touch so many hearts if people just give him a chance. How do I help my friends see that all he wants is the best for everyone?

A: As my great great grand master says "Teach them with legendary deeds!" As far as what those words mean, I have absolutely no idea!

Q: What if you are forced to leave behind your favourite person in town when you depart but you want him to come be a fool with you in the Emerald City? How do you go about liberating him and bringing him to the Capital so he can be insanely entertaining in a big city rather than a small village?

A: Pssh, your friend won't be able to entertain the entire Emerald City by themselves, the only person with the wit

and ability to do so is me. I suppose your friend will just have

Q: What are your favorite sweets? Any recipe suggestions?

A: I love a lovely lollipop licked lovingly with laudanum

Q: In a predicament where someone you miss dearly is set to come visit, but you are aware they will be executed if seen in town, what would you do to avoid an inevitable tragedy?

A: All the best tragedies are really misunderstood comedies, read a book

Q: Hi! My brother, Eustace, has a sleeping problem and falls asleep all the time. Do you have any advice on how to help him stay awake?

A: Heavy and frequent use of cymbals by the bedside, that ought to perk your brother right up!

Q: How does one stay optimistic when the world seems against them?

A: Ooglies, optimists adore working with eyeballs right?

Q: What are you...?

A: An excellent question! Possibly the best question ever to be asked!

Q: I was recently promoted to a cushy job sitting at a desk in the Emerald City. I love my desk. It's safe, and comfortable, and there's very little to do. Except that my boss keeps sending me out into the field to fix the screw ups of one specific Tin Man in my area. How do I convince him to stop before we both get demoted?

A: You could always look into learning the art of interpretive dance. I've heard it can be VERY convincing.

Q: My Grandmother raised me, and has always been kind to me. But she drives me crazy. I can't go anywhere without her wanting to come along, and she's quite frankly embarrassing. How do I get her to let me do business alone?

A: Slip her a dose of my favorite beverage!

Q: I want to drink tea with my family but none of them have a physical form. What do I do?

A: Get a better family!

Q: Who is really meant to rule a world
A: Humans own this world, literally. Have you ever met Lurline? She can be quite the... character

Q: Where did you get your hat? I like it. I like my hat too, but yours is really cool.

A: It's not a hat, it's my head, you are a jerk, whoever you are

Q: What was I supposed to be doing again?

A: I think you mean 'Whom' my dear, and that's not my place to say, but they may enjoy the occasional gunfight

Q: I think I have acquired fleas. How would you suggest I get rid of them?

A: Bring them to me! I'd love to put them into a circus! We'll have to have it at night though, otherwise we'll be too noisy!

Town Law Cont.

Witches

The nation of Oz promotes the advancement and creation of all technologies. But just as an inventor registers a device with the national patent office, a witch must register with local law enforcement. When a witch or other magic user moves into a new area, they must notify the Mayor, Judge, and Sheriff of their presence. This includes their Magical leanings, abilities, and reasons for relocating. Local officials have the option of requiring the Witch to wear specific markings, allowing their neighbors to identify the

witch without direct communication. An unregistered witch is punishable by law.

Domesticated Changeling

Due to the unpredictable nature of Changeling. Changeling living in town must prove they are fit for society. Changeling may seek a Certificate of Domesticity, which documents a Changeling's training to live amongst humans in society. Certificates of Domesticity are granted by an Elder, defined as the Changeling who has lived the longest in town. Exact tests are up to the Elder, but

may include: public service, obedience training, character testimony, and fees. Should the changeling meet the Elder's requirement, she will receive a certificate of Domesticity. Should an Elder be found irresponsible in his duties, he may be overturned as elder and a new one will be chosen by the Mayor, Judge and Sheriff of town.



The Time for Magic

The Land of Oz has languished for generations as a the magic intrinsic to our world has been hidden, hunted, and pushed. The magic of the land has been ignored or even damaged. The creatures of magic have been corralled and forgotten, or defined as dangerous and destroyed. Those of us who are naturally gifted in magical arts, who are born or created connected to the very magic of Oz, are punished and hunted. Those who would learn to use their magic for good and legal uses have no teachers. They are forced to seek learning in the underground networks of witches who were never stamped out, who are lurking in our cities and towns waiting to lead their "students" astray.

The scourge of Wicked Witches calling themselves the Artificers Guild is a consequence of lacking a formal and legal Guild for magic users to find guidance and support. Magic is a part of this world, and in the attempts to stamp it out of our civilized society we have only silenced those of us who would use magic responsibly, and provided substance to uprising of those who seek to use magic for self-gain or to harm.

We can stop this. We can right the balance of magic in Oz. Join with us and raise your voices to plead with the High Council, "Reinstate the Artificers Guild, the true Artificers Guild!" For only with the help of magic can we right the wrongs done by the Wicked witches, but magic users need to know that they will be recognized and supported for their good works, that they can safely join the fight. Help us re-instate the guild for ALL legal magic users, Light and Dark, so that we may once again live in a Land of Oz with a place in society for all of its people.



CONUNDRUM OF THE CONFUSED CRIMINALS

By Thuun

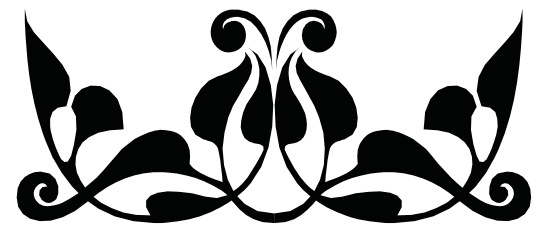
For years, the county seat has been in the hands of Lairabee. For years, their actions have spoken for their agendas and interests as they took control of the main road from the yellow brick road and placed high tolls on all merchants and travelers, causing a severe lack of funds to the laborers and workers. After raising awareness and getting enough support from the citizens, the Sabernocks have jump-started elections for a new county seat, and hope to bring positive change to the county. Although they would be honored to hold the position themselves, the Sabernocks express their feelings quite clearly. "We'd be happy with anyone who'd have more interest of their county than interest is their purse."

There seem to be various stances from the county's citizens and the travelers who frequent them, however the common opinion is that whoever holds the new seat should be a town with a diverse population that can bring different views and skills to the table.

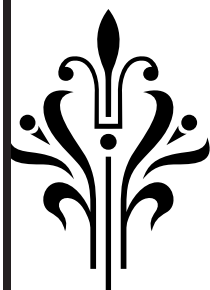
"I'd think a town with numerous guild representations, or one with an established government would be good choice." Says Dora Honeyleaf. "The county seat could do for a change." Claims Qulrain from Nightlite, who claims Nitelite would be a good candidate for its numerous commerce dealings. Horizon Stronghold tavern owner Noctus comments that having held the seat all this time, Lairabee offers the most experience, while Strongholds local Bureaucrat commented that their town would make an effective seat as it offers the best protection, has resources no

By Roman Blake

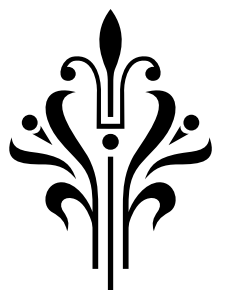
What's Good Friday in the land of OZ? Its a time for sharing and in Horizon Stronghold we did just that. The Stormriders celebrate the tradition of Easter on that weekend. Several activities were egg coloring, handing out candy, having baskets, and looking for those same eggs on Sunday morning. Peter Cotton tail made several appearances handing out eggs from his own basket for all the good Ozians to enjoy. When asked what eggs have to do with bunnies Peter said, "...", and handed out an egg. In the end all of the eggs were eaten or found and baskets of candy showed up at local businesses. Everyone enjoyed participating in the tradition and will be looking forward to doing it again next spring.



other towns have, and has the most diversity with its races and guilds such as the Grubbers, Rippers, and the Hospitality Guilds. Additionally, their goodwill is shown through their ongoing social programs such as the Changeling Sanctuary and their communal efforts to assist Stormriders starting new lives in Oz. Everybody interested in voting in the upcoming election in April should make sure they are registered citizens, and don't wait till the last minute to handle your paperwork with your local Bureaucrats.



It is Always Tea Time Tea Time B&B





Town Schedule

Saturday

Noon -2 p.m. Market
Hildy Hall

2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Town Meeting\
3 p.m Special eletion
Tax collection



For those who seek clarity,
the tarot may hold an-
swers.

By the
powers of divination,
I, Castor Achaius,
help to shed light onto
matters shrouded in
mystery.

Come to me with any and
all questions weighing on
your mind,
and I shall let the cards
guide us both through the
possibilities.

Readings vary in cost de-
pending on the depths
you would like me to
search with the tarot.
If you wish to participate in
a reading,
approach me at any time.

Missing Children

Our three boys went missin' about a
month ago and we haven't heard hide
nor hair of 'em since. They were last
seen goin' to an ice cream social near
the county seat of Horizon Stronghold.
We miss our boys and want them home
safe an' sound. If you've heard anythin'
please let us know!

Ma an' Pa Pickelsby

Claudette's CORNER

Hi, everyone! I wanted to take a chance
to explain a bit about how different
changelings can be from each other, and
do some interviews so maybe we can be
a bit better understood. I didn't think it
was fair to start anywhere than with
myself! I don't wanna ask someone
personal questions without explainin' a
bit about myself first.

I'm a swamp rat changeling - so what
does that mean? Well I like livin' in Hori-
zon Stronghold, but before that I lived
in, you guessed it! A swamp! I did a lot
of swimmin' and had a nice burrow in the
shore. It was cozy and safe because you
had to swim down under water then up
into it to get in, so it was kinda hard to
find. I lived with a big community of
other swamp rats, but not all in the same
burrow. There were lots of tasty water
plants to eat!

I can't see very well but Ms. Preena was
kind enough to make me some peeper
cheaters. Normally I'd rely on smell and
sound and feeling since I like to be more
active in the dark hours and you can't
see much then anyway. I've kinda
shifted to be awake more during the day
to help serve guests at the Red Poppy but
still have a hard time getting up in the
morning! I still get a little jumpy when I
hear a sound I don't recognize.

I've had three litters with three differ-
ent mates - they've each moved on and
that suits me just fine! Sometimes if
there's not enough space or food, the
babies won't survive. Sometimes they
get eaten. That's why I'm happy to have
a nice big home with plenty of food with
Ms. Preena, so all my babies can grow up
big and strong. It only takes 'em about a
month to really get the hang of things
and go out on their own.

So before you go assumin' you know
everything about changelings, stop and
ask instead! We're individuals same as
you. Thanks for readin'!

Red Poppy Lounge

Still the same great people and prices as before,
But now we are focused on providing you a more
Relaxing atmosphere with good drinks,
Good snacks, and good fun.

Come and see us!