Welcome to Strassen

A guide to our commune



www.strassen.lu

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Many volunteers were involved in the realisation of this Welcome Book. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed information and ideas, who helped with research or translation, and who was willing to act as a proof-reader. Your commitment made this exercise a true collaboration between the citizens of Strassen and its communal employees. Thank you for the fabulous teamwork and your tireless efforts.

Welcome Book Editorial Team

Welcome to our Commune



It gives me great pleasure to welcome you on behalf of the Board of Aldermen. We are delighted that you have decided to make our commune your new home. Strassen is one of the most dynamic communes in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg! Nestled between the huge Bambësch forest and the city of Luxembourg, Strassen has the best of both worlds, as you will discover:

unspoilt nature and quiet residential areas in green surroundings, and a rich and diverse town life and cultural scene, with the city and its amenities on the doorstep.

But before you are enticed away to the city by everything going on there, take a look around Strassen – you won't be disappointed. The main thing Strassen has to offer its inhabitants is a sense of belonging to a thriving community. There is always some opportunity or other to meet up, get to know fellow residents and play an active role in community life.

Strassen is a commune that enjoys continual growth. Several large projects have been undertaken to meet the needs of the population. One of our truly exceptional achievements is the aquatic centre "Les Thermes", which opened its doors to the public in February 2009.

One of Strassen's most important infrastructures is undoubtedly the Paul Barblé cultural centre. This building lies at the heart of the commune, opposite the Town Hall, and represents the hub of cultural and social activity. Our clubs and associations have their stage here, with concerts

I invite you to share with us two values that are close to our hearts: friendship and solidarity. These are strong pillars of social cohesion.

Diversity among people and cultures should not be a cause of exclusion and isolation, but rather an invitation to meet and come together. In such diversity, every individual should discover the richness of his own cultural identity. Anyone who embraces his own culture enriches the lives of others and welcomes the proximity of other cultures as a gift that enriches his own life.

Please enrich our town life by becoming actively involved in it!

I am sure you will find something that arouses your interest, an association perhaps or something to do with culture or even politics. The more active your involvement, the more you will also feel part of the community. You will be happier in your new home and will settle in much more quickly.

Italian sociology professor Francesco Alberoni wrote in his book entitled Friendship that "friendship is a democratic virtue".

I believe his notion to be very wise and true, particularly because friendship is based on respect and on listening to one another. I therefore hope that you will find plenty of "democratic virtues" here in Strassen.

We want to do all we can so that you, my dear friends, are made to feel extremely welcome here!

Gaston Greiveldinger Mayor

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1. Commune

1.1. Location, data, facts, history

History of the commune

The history of Strassen dates back to the time of the Celts. Even back then there was a "Strasse", or road, here. Gallo-Roman graves from the period between 750 and 50 BC have been found along the side of this road within the bounds of the commune of Strassen.

The name Strassen is derived from the Latin word "strata". This is the name the Romans gave to roads that they built for their army. Three large Roman roads, also known as "Kiem" after the Late Latin word "caminus", meaning "way" (French: "chemin"), traversed the territory of what is now the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. One of these was Kiem, which ran through the territory of the commune of Strassen. It straightened out the old Keltenstrasse and ran from the territory of modern-day Arlon as far as Trier. The route of this Roman road is roughly the same as that of present-day roads Rue du Kiem and Rue des Romains through the districts of "Enn", "Bechel" and "Riedgen".

Until after the Second World War, the stretch of road from Mamer to Luxembourg was a simple dirt track. In 1960, traces of Roman times were found during its expansion and transformation into an asphalted road within the bounds of the commune of Strassen.

The first Christian places of worship erected by the Germanic people date back to around 350 – 400 AD. They were dedicated to Roman martyrs. The church in Strassen, for example, is dedicated to Saint Lawrence.

In 723 AD, Charles Martell, son of Duke Pepin of Heristal, presented the crumbling Roman fortress on the Bock Promontory at Luxembourg, together with the towns of Küntzig, Strassen, Weimerskirch and Steinsel, as a gift to St. Maximin's Abbey at Trier. In 1023 AD, Emperor Henry II confirmed to the monks of St. Maximin's Abbey that they had feudal ownership of the possessions in the Luxembourg territory, including the commune of Strassen.

In 1096 AD, a noble "von Strassen" family is mentioned for the first time. Knight Walther von Strassen took part in the First Crusade led by Gottfried von Bouillon. Gottfried von Bouillon became King of Jerusalem. Neither man returned home.

In 1766, the first information about Strassen as a settlement appeared in historical files. At that time, it had 417 inhabitants. A third of the population had very recently fallen victim to a plague epidemic.

In 1804, Strassen and Reckenthal joined together to form a parish for the first time. In 1823, Bartringen and Strassen came together to create a political commune. However, this union was dissolved again on 1 January 1850 due to the enactment of a new law on 6 August 1849. Back then Strassen had 1300 inhabitants and although many citizens of Strassen emigrated to the USA there was little change in this figure over the next 100 years. In 1949, there were 1400 people living in Strassen. In 1960, this figure had reached 1900. Since then the commune has been growing rapidly. In 1980, the number of inhabitants totalled 4200, and by 1997 it had climbed to 5808 inhabitants from 58 differentnations. At that time, only 47% of them were from Luxembourg.

Population

In 2011, Strassen is home to **7550** inhabitants from **90** different nations. The largest population group, at approx. 44%, is made up of Luxembourg nationals. 11% of the inhabitants are of French nationality, while 9% come from Portugal and 6% from Italy. A total of 47% of the population of Strassen are from EU member states and 5% from other countries in Europe. Only approx. 4% of all inhabitants are non-Europeans.

Location

Strassen covers **10.7 km²** to the left and right of Route d'Arlon and Rue des Romains. The name of our commune (nomen est omen) evokes an issue that is always topical for us – roads, or rather the associated traffic. Local and through traffic is a frequent issue in the commune, and not always a pleasant one. The busy Route d'Arlon stands in stark contrast to the commune's peaceful and green residential areas. Strassen borders the capital city

Luxembourg to the east, the neighbouring commune of Bartringen to the south, Mamer to the west and Kopstal to the north. In terms of its total population, the commune of Strassen lies in 18th place in the list of all communes in the Grand Duchy. From the point of view of surface area, Strassen is one of the smaller communes.

Coat of arms

The commune's coat of arms was designed in 1976 using old templates. A charter from the year 1411 that bears the seal of Johann von Strassen depicts the commune's present-day coat of arms incorporated within his seal. The



same coat of arms was found in the triangular head piece of a crucifixion group from the 14th century, which previously stood in the old churchyard in Strassen and is now on display, together with the seal of Johann von Strassen, in the national museum. The commune's coat of arms was approved by Prime

Minister Gaston Thorn on 7 December 1976. Depicted are five vertical gold stripes (blades) on a red background (red tongue). The official description reads: "De gueules à cinq pals d'or", or gules with five pales or.

Statistics

Further information and current statistics relating to the commune of Strassen can be found on our homepage on the Internet at www.strassen.lu.



1.2. Communal Administration

Town Hall



Strassen's Communal Administration resides in the Town Hall at 1, Place Grande-Duchesse Charlotte / 53, Rue des Romains.

There are three parts to the building, all clustered around a naturally bright and spacious atrium. The rooms and offices of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen (see section 1.4.) are housed in the western Block B. Block C on the northeastern side accommodates the Communal Secretariat and the Fiscal Administration. The south-eastern Block A is home to the Registry Office and the Residents' Registration Office. The entire complex is impressive with its simple and modern linear style, which despite being exceptionally functional lacks nothing of warmth and openness.

Communal Administration / Reception Desk

The Communal Administration employs experts in a range of departments, all ready to answer any questions you may have. You can call the Reception Desk on **310 262-1**. There is also a lot of information on the commune's website at **www.strassen.lu**, where you can also contact the Communal Administration, find forms to fill in and request official certificates.

Simply visit the commune's Reception Desk if you wish to buy the black refuse sacks that are taken away by the refuse collectors, to pay for your Night Rider Card (see section 5.2.), to purchase chequebooks for "Repas sur roues" (see section 3.) or to book SPOLO sports courses (see section 7.2.). Everything can be paid for at the Reception Desk in cash or using a VISA or Maestro card.

Residents' Registration Office (Bureau de la population)

The staff of the Residents' Registration Office, Ms Josette Altwies (tel. 310 262-232), Ms Christiane Gottal (tel. 310 262-230) and Ms Deborah Bill (tel. 310 262-231), will be your first point of contact in Strassen. You must contact this office to register your move to Strassen within the first 8 days. To complete the formalities, you will need to bring your valid passport or personal identity card and your tenancy agreement.

It is standard practice in Luxembourg to use the addressee's name at birth on all official correspondence. Therefore, if you are married and have adopted a marital surname, you will need to include your name at birth on your letterbox. This will ensure that important letters can be delivered.

Birth

The birth of a child must be registered within five days of the birth in the commune in which the child has been born, regardless of where the parents live. If your child is born in a hospital within the city of Luxembourg, he or she must be registered at the "Hôtel de ville", 42, Place Guillaume II, L-2090 Luxembourg. Make sure you observe this deadline. There will be legal consequences if you fail to register within five days. To enable everyone to meet the deadline, this office is open on Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and on Saturday and public holidays from 9.30 a.m. until 11.30 a.m. It is only closed on Sundays. There you will be issued with the birth certificate that you will need to register your child at the Residents' Registration Office.

Identity papers

You can contact the Residents' Registration Office in the Town Hall for all kinds of identity papers. Luxembourg nationals can apply here for their personal identity card and passport. Foreign nationals from other EU countries are issued here with a residence certificate. Non-EU nationals receive an authorisation to stay, which is affixed in their passport. To apply for or to renew a passport, fellow citizens who are foreign nationals need to contact their country's embassy or consulate. The telephone numbers of foreign representations can be found in the telephone book under the entry "Ambassade". Your country's representation will also be able to tell you whether it can issue you with a



personal identity card. The Luxembourg authorities cannot issue identity papers for anyone who is not a Luxembourg resident.

<u>Address registration certificate</u> (<u>Attestation d'enregistrement</u>)

On 1 October 2008, the new law governing residency and the relocation of EU and Swiss nationals to Luxembourg came into force. The Communal Administrations no longer issue "cartes de séjour", or residence permits. Permits that have already been issued will remain valid until their expiry date.

New arrivals from elsewhere in the EU must apply for an "attestation d'enregistrement", or address registration certificate, at their commune's Residents' Registration Office. Anyone who has already been living in the Grand Duchy for 5 years or more will receive an "attestation d'enregistrement permanent", or permanent address registration certificate, on request. The recipient of this certificate will be entitled to stay in the Grand Duchy indefinitely. Please be aware that whenever an official body requests the presentation of identity papers (police check, applications to government agencies, etc.), a valid address registration certificate will have to be submitted together with a valid identity document from the native country.

Another new requirement since 1 October 2008 is the obligation for every family member, including babies and children who are minors, to possess an address registration certificate. If you have any further questions, please contact the commune's Residents' Registration Office, visit the commune's website at **www.strassen.lu** or read the "Immigration" section of the website belonging to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at **www.mae.lu**.

Official documents

Official documents, such as the "certificat de composition de ménage", or household composition certificate, the "certificat de residence", or residence certificate, or the "certificat de vie", or life certificate, are issued to you at the Residents' Registration Office. These are documents that are required by domestic authorities when you apply for allowances, premiums or the like. Please note that each of these official documents will only be issued to you if you are able to prove your identity using a valid personal identity card / passport and a valid "carte de séjour" (residence permit) or "attestation d'enregistrement" (address registration certificate).

You can also request these documents online via the Internet platform at www.macommune.lu.

Macommune.lu

The Internet portal "macommune.lu" lets you take care of administrative formalities online from the comfort of your own home.

To use this service, you will need to register with the help of a security card that is issued by the commune for each household. An information brochure available from the commune will explain exactly what this service involves and how to register.



Fiscal census

In Luxembourg, a fiscal census is taken annually on 15 October. At the beginning of October, you will find a form in your letterbox issued by your particular census taker. You must provide the names of all family members who are members of your household, their dates of birth, marital status and relationship to the head of the household, as well as the names of their employers and the addresses of their places of work. You must also state whether your home is rented or owned, the level of any rent and the percentage of residential / commercial use of the property. The form will be collected again by the commune's census taker from 15 October onwards. However, you can also hand it in or return it to the Communal Administration once you have completed it.

The data provided will be used to issue the next income tax cards. At present, the commune will not issue you with a new income tax card without this document. If the details you have provided change between 15 October and 31 December, you must report this to the Communal Administration immediately so that your next tax card contains the correct data.

"Comprehensive" census

Every 10 years, a comprehensive census is taken in Luxembourg. In 2011, this coincided with the pan-European data collection. This involves the gathering not just of tax-related data, but also of information on origin, education, financial circumstances and housing for statistical purposes.

Income tax card

If you are new to Luxembourg, you should apply for your income tax card at the Residents' Registration Office. If you move house within the country, your old income tax card will still be valid, but it may need to be amended at the Residents' Registration Office that is then responsible for you. Later, your income tax card will automatically be sent to you each year if you have properly filled in and submitted the census questionnaire.

Tax return

If you have any questions relating to Luxembourg tax law and tax returns, please contact a local "fiduciaire" (tax advisor), the Luxembourg Consumers' Union (ULC) or your local tax office.

Customs certificate (Certificat de Franchise en Douane)

You will need this customs certificate if you are coming to Luxembourg from a country outside Europe and wish to import furniture or the like by air freight, by sea container or in some other way. You can apply for this at the Residents' Registration Office on presentation of a valid identity document.

Police clearance certificate (Certificat de Moralité)

You can obtain an "extrait de casier judiciaire", or extract from your personal police file, at the Cité Judiciaire, Plateau du Saint-Esprit, Bâtiment BC (1st floor), L-2080 Luxembourg. This office is open on Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. until 11.30 a.m. and from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. and can be contacted by telephone on 475 981-346. This extract must be sent by e-mail to casier.judiciaire@justice.etat.lu

accompanied by a scanned copy of your passport or personal identity card. The extract is provided free of charge unless it contains entries. Once you have submitted this extract and your valid personal identity card or passport together with your "Attestation d'enregistrement", or address registration certificate, the commune's Residents' Registration Office will issue you with a "certificat de moralité", or police clearance certificate.

Parental authorisation (autorisation parentale)

Minors leaving the country without their parents on a trip with their school, association or even family members will need an "autorisation parentale", or parental authorisation, that states where the child is travelling to, who is accompanying the child and when the child will be back in Luxembourg. This certificate will be issued to you at the Residents' Registration Office. It will be valid once you have signed it and serves as security for children and minders alike.

Registry Office (Etat civil)

Deaths must be reported to the Registry Office. Outside the opening times for the Town Hall on weekends and public holidays you will be able to contact an employee in an emergency on **telephone number 691 310 296** between 9.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.

Please contact **Mr Marc Fonck (tel. 310 262–237)** at the commune's Registry Office if you have any question about having a wedding in Strassen. Life partnerships can also be registered at the Registry Office.

Naturalisation / dual citizenship

Any questions you may have relating to naturalisation or the adoption of Luxembourg nationality or dual citizenship can be answered by Mr Fonck at the commune's Registry Office. To acquire Luxembourg citizenship, interested parties must be of full legal age and have been resident in the Grand Duchy for 7 years without interruption at the time of applying. They must possess a valid authorisation to stay and must have proven that they have sufficient knowledge of Luxembourgish by passing a language test at the Centre de langues / Institut national des langues (www.insl.lu, tel. 264 **430-1**, test fee EUR 75). They must also have proof that they have attended citizenship courses. They must present their application for Luxembourg nationality to the commune's Registry Office together with their birth certificate, a curriculum vitae, an officially certified copy of their passport, their impeccable police clearance certificate covering every year of their life since their 18th birthday and/or every previous address, and their certificates for attending the citizenship courses and passing the language test. All the documents will be sent together to the Ministry of Justice, which will make a decision on the application and may award citizenship. The Reaistry Office will also provide you with information on the exceptions and special rules that apply to the acquisition of Luxemboura citizenship.

Agency for Integration and Equal Rights



If you have any questions concerning any aspect of your life in Strassen, you can contact **Ms Luiza Sosna (tel. 310 262-270)**. Her office can be found on the second floor of Block A of the Town Hall. She will be

very happy to help you settle in here in your new commune. She will also try to answer any questions you may have relating to leisure opportunities or further education. She will either locate the information you need or find experts who can help you further. Ms Sosna will be very pleased to meet you, even if you have been living in Strassen for some time.

Communal Cash Office (Recette communale)

The communal revenue collectors, Mr Yves Welschbillig (tel. 310 262-212) and Mr Marc Feider (tel. 310 262-244), run the Communal Cash Office and see to the execution of payment instructions as well as the collection of communal taxes and fees. If you have any problems with transfers or reminders, please contact Mr Welschbillig and Mr Feider. Any questions or complaints regarding the content of a bill from the commune should be addressed to the relevant staff of the individual departments.

Forest warden

The communal forest is managed by the commune's forest warden, **Mr Guy Rassel**. You can order firewood from him as part of this service. You can even obtain a permit from him to chop wood in the communal forest. Mr Rassel can be reached on **telephone number 310 262-269**.

<u>Technical Services Department (service technique)</u>

The following people work for the commune's Technical Services Department: Mr Claude Feipel (tel. 310 262-242), Mr Luc Reisdorffer (tel. 310 262-219), Mr Marc Urbing (tel. 310 262-217), Mr Paul Schmidt (tel. 310 262-235) and Mr Christian Colombo (tel. 310 262-221). Mr Feipel and Mr Reisdorffer deal with the commune's infrastructure; they monitor communal construction sites and manage the communal

land use and development plan (Plan d'Aménagement Générale – PAG). Mr Reisdorffer is additionally responsible for every area-specific land use and development plan (Plan d'Aménagement Particulier – PAP). Mr Urbing will answer any questions you may have in connection with the construction of a building as well as conversions and renovations. Here you can obtain information on applicable regulations within the commune, required building permits and all relevant legislation. Questions regarding public transport and the various bus routes can also be addressed to Mr Urbing.

Mr Schmidt can help you if you wish to find out about the subsidies that you can obtain for the installation of environmentally friendly technologies or the like, for example. He is also the person to ask about street lighting and the commune's buildings as well as the commune's own rental accommodation.

You can order your dustbins from Mr Colombo. He is the person to contact if you wish to report bulky refuse and special waste (electrical equipment, such as washing machines and TVs, etc.) and to ask any general questions regarding refuse disposal. You should also contact the Technical Services Department if you need to register a water connection or to have one established.

Pets / dogs

Dogs must be registered in the commune within **one month** of their acquisition. To register your pet, as the owner you will require a birth certificate indicating the breed and sex, the electronic ID for the identification chip implanted 4 months after birth, the vaccination card with details of all prescribed vaccinations and an insurance policy for the pet that is valid in the Grand Duchy. The decision on the dog licence fee will be sent to the owner.

The new Dogs Act, which has been in force since 9 May 2008, sets out requirements for dog owners. You can find all the information you need in a set of rules available free of charge from **Mr Christian Colombo (tel. 310 262-221)** at the Technical Services Department (service technique).

Generally speaking, all dogs within the bounds of the commune of Strassen must be electronically chipped and walked on a lead. Staffordshire Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, Tosas, Rottweilers and mixed-breed dogs that resemble these breeds and have successfully completed a dog training course must wear a muzzle and be kept on a lead when in public and may only be walked by adults who have passed the prescribed training (dog owner's licence). You are not permitted to take your dog into food shops, restaurants or similar public areas. In addition, all the laws and regulations that apply to pet ownership in general and dog ownership in particular in Luxembourg must be observed.

If your pet falls ill or suffers an injury, you should contact a local vet. If your pet dies and you need to dispose of its body, any vet will be able to help you out. He will be able to provide you with the addresses and telephone numbers of the people you need to contact. If your dog dies, you must also deregister it at the Communal Administration. All the vets based in Luxembourg can be found in the telephone book. There is also a veterinary surgery in Strassen.

Electricity, gas, water, TV

The energy company **ENOVOS** supplies many of the commune's households with electricity. If you have any problems, you can contact the company on **telephone number 800 660-00**.

The company LEO, part of the **ENOVOS** Group, supplies gas to Strassen's households that are connected up to the gas mains. Information on the LEO service can be obtained by calling **263 948-48**.

All citizens of Strassen are at liberty to use the aforementioned services or to look for alternatives.

The company **Numericable** offers broad-based cable television packages and can be contacted on **telephone number 261 023-01**. The **postal service (P&T)** also offers a wide range of different television channels as IPTV using your landline telephone connection. You can ask for information about this service at any post office branch.

For questions relating to the drinking water supply you should contact the Communal Administration. If problems arise during normal opening times, dial 310 262-1.

Outside these times, there is an emergency service that can be reached on 310 262-222.



Info and alert service (Service d'Alerte)

The commune of Strassen offers its residents a special information and alert service. Under the "Service d'Alerte" section of the commune's website, you can register to be notified of important information promptly. You can choose to receive the information from the sections you have selected either by SMS, by voice alert to your landline or mobile phone or by e-mail. You can select from the

following: information in dangerous situations, such as local evacuations, environmental disasters or incidents in the petroleum or nuclear industry; information in the event of electricity, gas or water supply problems; traffic alerts and so on. This service is free.

Babysitting

Once a year, the commune of Strassen unites with the Red Cross in Luxembourg to train young people to become certified babysitters. You will find the names of the babysitters, their rates and all the important information on the website at **www.babysitting.lu**. Babysitting.lu is a service for the whole of Luxemburg.

1.3. Communal publications

Bulletin

Once or twice a year, the Strassen Bulletin is distributed to every household. This includes photos and reports relating to the political and cultural life of the commune, as well as articles about the activities of the local clubs and associations. It is a review of the last six to twelve months to keep you abreast of the public life of our commune. We are proud of our rich and varied town life and wish to invite everyone to play an active role in it.

Buet / Official Newsletter

Reports on the meetings of the Communal Council are published regularly in the commune's Buet. All resolutions and debates are presented here in both German and French. In the middle of the publication you will find yellow pages containing the latest important information, official announcements and forms for applying for various subsidies, orderina firewood, registering for activities during the school holidays, and the like.



Cultural Flyer

Once a month, every household in Strassen receives the Cultural Flyer. All the cultural events in the commune, such as concerts, exhibitions and theatre productions, the dates of the food market and the traditional festivals are announced here. The announcements in this flyer are to be seen not only as information, but also as an invitation. The organisers of the respective events would be delighted to stir your interest and welcome you as a guest.



1.4. Communal politics

Commune with proportional representation

Communes in Luxembourg elect their Communal Councillors every 6 years according to two different electoral systems, proportional representation and simple majority. The simply majority voting system is applied in communes with fewer than 3000 inhabitants. Given that Strassen has more than 7000 inhabitants, it elects on the basis of proportional representation.

In practical terms, this means as follows:

The number of Communal Councillors to be elected is provided by law according to the number of inhabitants. In 2005, 11 Communal Councillors were elected because Strassen had fewer than 6000 inhabitants on the cut-off date. In 2011, 13 new Councillors will be elected at the Communal Council elections in October because the number of inhabitants has increased accordingly. All parties that are politically active in our commune will prepare lists, each with 13 candidates, prior to the upcoming Communal Council election. The following parties are standing in the election: CSV (Christian Social People's Party), DP (Democratic Party), déi Gréng (The Greens) and LSAP (Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party).

Communal Council elections

Every voter can cast 13 votes on polling day.

One option is to choose one of the lists by colouring in the circle above this list in black. This means that the voter gives all 13 votes to one particular party. When the votes are later counted, every candidate from this party receives one vote by virtue of this ballot paper.

The second option, however, is for voters to award their votes specifically to individual candidates. In this case, the voter can give up to two votes to one candidate. He or she can therefore pick individual people among the candidates from all parties, who then receive one or two votes, until he or she has awarded a maximum of 13 votes. If 14 or more votes have been cast or the ballot paper contains crossings-out, it will become invalid. A voter may, however, award fewer than 13 votes. Even if just one vote is cast, the ballot paper is valid.

In this way, the voter does not just have to choose between the parties. He or she can also choose which candidate from within a party should join the Communal Council. According to electoral law in Luxembourg, the candidates appear on the lists in alphabetical order. Their position on the list is unimportant; the voter decides on the ranking order of the candidates. Only the number of votes received determines which candidates have gained a seat on the Communal Council and what ranking order applies within a party.

The total number of votes that a party has won determines how many seats it will receive on the Communal Council. If a party has won at least one seat, any seats won are awarded to those candidates who have received the most votes on the list for this party, with the most popular candidate being given seat one, the next most popular seat two, and so on.

Communal Council

In the first session of the new Communal Council after an election, members elect the Mayor and his Aldermen. After this first session, the Communal Council is always convened by the Board of Aldermen and meets in the Town Hall. Its

meetings are public. The dates for these meetings are announced on the commune's website. Reports of these meetings, as well as other important information from the Communal Administration, are published regularly in the Buet (see section 1.3. Communal publications) and distributed to all households. All the information in the Buet is provided in German and French.

Mayor

Once the Communal Council has elected the new Mayor in its first session after a Communal Council election, he or she is sworn in by the Luxembourg Interior Minister. At the next meeting, he or she then swears in the Communal Councillors who have been newly elected to the Communal Council. The Mayor of the commune is its primary representative. The Mayor issues building permits by his or her signature and is in charge of the local police. He or she runs the meetings of the Communal Council and chairs the Board of Aldermen. Together with the Board of Aldermen, he or she implements the Communal Council's resolutions. The Mayor must be informed of everything that happens in any area of the commune and makes decisions in consultation with the Board of Aldermen.

Board of Aldermen

The Aldermen of a commune are also sworn in by the Interior Minister following their election. The commune's Board of Aldermen takes decisions and makes the preparations for the debates and decisions scheduled for forthcoming meetings of the Communal Council.

In Strassen, the Board of Aldermen is made up of 3 people from the ruling majority. It is chaired by the incumbent Mayor. The two Aldermen come from the ruling party or coalition. These are the representatives of their parties who polled the most votes after the Mayor.

Advisory committees

Besides the Board of Aldermen and the Communal Council. there are also advisory committees in Strassen. Some of these committees are prescribed by law, such as the School Board, the Rental Committee and the Integration Commission. These committees are installed for six years and reconstituted after every Communal Council election. The new Board of Aldermen specifies which committees are to advise it and how they will be put together. The Communal Council decides on the formation of the individual committees and elects committee members for the duration of the legislative period. As a result, Luxembourg communes may have very different committees involved in different greas. In Strassen, these committees are made up not only of members of all the parties, but also of citizens who are not affiliated to any one party. They have the task of discussing the projects presented to them and then making recommendations to the Board of Aldermen or alerting it to possible problems. Every committee has a particular area of responsibility. Some committees also help the Board of Aldermen organise and run events and information evenings dealing with a vast range of topics.



The Integration Commission has the task of not only advising the Board of Aldermen, but also representing the interests

of new or foreign fellow citizens, and can be approached at any time if questions or problems arise or if there are ideas that ought to be passed on. In accordance with the provisions, this committee meets at least once every trimester

The School Board is entrusted with all problems relating to schooling. It covers a whole range of topics, from school organisation and class make-up to problems with discipline or aggression.

The Rental Committee sets out the rent level for houses and flats in Strassen within the framework of the nationwide rent table. If disputes or differences of opinion arise concerning the level of the rent demanded for a property in Strassen, both parties can call the Rental Committee straightaway to determine the rent. Its decision will be legally binding.

Committees not prescribed by law include the Youth Commission, the Commission of the Third Age, the Commission for Equal Opportunities, the Culture Commission, the Environment Commission, the Commission for Sport and Local Clubs and Associations, the Social Commission, the Finance Commission, the Buildings Commission, the Transport Commission, the Spatial Planning Commission (commission d'aménagement) and a Commission for Public Security, to name but a few. An exhaustive list of advisory committees can be found on the commune's website at www.strassen.lu under "Politique et administration / Commissions Consultatives".

Right to vote / obligation to vote

All Luxembourg nationals are entered on the electoral list for their commune as soon as they become of full legal age and are obliged to take part in elections either in person or by postal vote. Voting is compulsory in Luxembourg.

Adult fellow citizens from abroad can be entered on the electoral lists if they have lived in Luxembourg for **5 years**. Only people entered on these lists are entitled to take part in the elections. This entry is valid for all subsequent **local elections**. The electoral lists are open up to 13 weeks before the next election. If a fellow citizen who is a foreign national moves house within Luxembourg and was entered on the electoral list in his or her previous commune, he or she will be transferred to the electoral list of his or her new commune following the move.

Aside from local elections, foreign EU citizens in Luxembourg can also take part in **elections for the European Parliament**. This also requires entry on the electoral list. To be involved in electing Luxembourg representatives to the European Parliament, they only need to have been registered in Luxembourg in the last **2 years** and to have waived their right to vote in elections for the European Parliament in their native country.

To be entered on the relevant electoral list, you must present a valid identity document as well as proof of the years spent in Luxembourg. You will then be entered on the electoral list once you have signed an entry application at the commune's Residents' Registration Office.

Please do not hesitate to contact the commune's Residents' Registration Office if you require further information.

Take part in the elections if you meet the requirements. Help shape our commune. Become part of our community. You are more than welcome. And remember, if you do not vote, you are allowing others to make decisions for you.

1.5. Catholic parish

In Strassen, you will find a Catholic parish. The **priest** of the commune, **Mr René Reuter**, lives in neighbouring Bartringen. Information on the services can be found in a free parish newsletter available in the church.

Pastor Reuter holds a surgery in the Centre Paroissal, or rectory, from 10 a.m. until 11.30 a.m. on Wednesdays and from 5 p.m. until 6.30 p.m. on Thursdays. During these times, you can see him in person or contact him by telephone on **310 128**. Outside these hours, he can be reached in an emergency on his mobile phone by calling **691 319 862**. Besides Christian churches, you will also find representatives and organisations for many other religious communities in Luxembourg.



1.6. Traditional festivals and events

Like everywhere else, Strassen is home to popular traditions that are a permanent fixture in the calendar. Some go back a long way, while others are recent additions that are only a few years old. Together, they make life in Strassen colourful and varied.

Liichtmëssdag

During January, the schoolchildren of Strassen get busy making lanterns in time for Liichtmëssdag, or Candlemas Day, on 2 February. On this day, the children go from house to house, providing light.

With their lanterns they symbolically bring light into dark winter and ask St. Blasius to protect you. They sing a traditional song to you on your doorstep. As a small token of your appreciation, the children expect to receive a few sweets. Make yourself and the children happy, enjoy their little song and have a few sweets or chocolates ready by your front door. You will be rewarded by seeing the children's faces light up.

Buergbrennen

The first Sunday of Lent is an occasion traditionally known as Burgsonntag (Buergsonndeg). This ancient custom is probably Celtic in origin and is meant to drive away the winter. For several days beforehand, a number of volunteers

erect the "Buerg", a wooden structure in the form of a cross on a pile of wood. It is likely that the cross, being a symbol of Christianity, was not added until the Middle Ages. On the evening of Burgsonntag, both young and old from the commune meet up for the joint torchlight procession to the "Buerg". Everyone is given a



tarred torch, and we all set off together. The most recently married couple is given the honour of lighting the "Buerg". While the "Buerg" burns down under the watchful eye of the fire brigade, the people celebrate with grilled sausages, mulled wine and other delicacies. A fun time for all the family. In times gone by, the elders of the commune would predict the weather and harvest by the smoke from the fire. Look into the fire yourself; maybe you will see something.

Hämmelsmarsch

Strassen's music association, Fanfare, is a very active association. It provides a festive atmosphere at numerous events over the course of the year. It is always happily on the spot whenever solemn or lively music is required.

For the "Kleng Kiermes", or Little Fair, on the first Sunday in March and for the "Grouss Kiermes", or Big Fair, on the first Sunday in November, Fanfare plays the "Hämmelsmarsch" - the march of the sheep.

The origins of the fair lie in the church dedication festival. Every church is dedicated to a patron saint. The Big Fair on the first Sunday in November honours the main patron saint. For Strassen this is St. Lawrence. The Little Fair honours St. Albinus, the second patron saint of Strassen church. The musical procession bears the name "Hämmelsmarsch" because originally sheep would lead the Fanfare musicians. The musicians play their instruments as they make their way through the commune. An announcement is made in advance to tell you what time they will be walking along your road. They will ring the bell and ask for a donation to Fanfare. Depending on how much you give, the musicians will thank you by playing a fanfare or the "Kiermeslidd", or fair song, outside your home.

The music association uses some of this money to purchase and maintain the instruments that are supplied to the musicians as well as to the pupils of the music school.

Klibberen

Do not be shocked. On Good Friday and Easter Saturday, you will be woken early at 7 a.m. by the "Klibber children".

"Klibberen" are wooden instruments similar to rattles that generate noise. This ancient custom, which was reserved for the boys of the commune until the Second Vatican Council in 1963, used to extend from Maundy Thursday until Easter Sunday. Given that the church bells remain silent during this time, not summoning the faithful to church, the children assumed this task with their "Klibberen". Having surrounded the altar at Evening Mass on Maundy Thursday, while playing their instruments, the boys would then summon the faithful to Mass with their "Klibberen", making their final appearance at High Mass on Easter Sunday. In the groups that formed spontaneously, the older boys would share out the eggs and donations collected for all the children as they saw fit. The younger children often received hardly any money, just the eggs.

These days, the priest puts the children into groups and assigns a route to each group. The time of the "Klibber children" has been condensed from four to two days, and girls are now very welcome to join in. The children perform their service four times a day.

On the morning of Easter Saturday, they ring all the doorbells, sing their song and ask for a donation and coloured Easter eggs in return for their service. They hand both over to the priest, who shares the eggs and money out fairly between all the "Klibber children" from the commune. We are proud of the fact that this old Luxembourg tradition is still alive in our commune. What is it like? Would your children like to join in next year? We urgently need and welcome every "Klibber child" so that the tradition lives on.

Biennale d'Art Contemporain de la Commune de Strassen

The Biennale of Contemporary Art is held in Strassen every two years and is an important part of our cultural calendar. You will find more useful information on our Biennale and its history in the section on "Culture" (7.1.).

Stroossen wibbelt



For a few years now, the STR SSEN commune of Strassen, in conjunction with the Commission for Sport and Local Clubs and Associations, has been organising the amateur

sporting event "Stroossen wibbelt". Anyone who can and wants to run, walk, hike, skate or cycle is invited to join in.

National Day

The National Day of Luxembourg is 23 June. Originally, the National Day would always be celebrated on the birthday of the ruling Grand Duke or Duchess. Grand Duchess Charlotte was born on 23 January. Given that it was always particularly cold around her birthday, 23 June was chosen as the date for the festivities and this was later retained for all subsequent Grand Dukes and Duchesses. The main celebrations on this date take place in the capital. But Strassen too celebrates the day.

the evening before the National Day. representatives of the commune and all Strassen's clubs and associations come together for a festive "cortège", or procession. The clubs and associations wear their emblems and carry their flags as the procession, accompanied by the Fanfare association, enters the church, where it is welcomed by the priest. There, in honour of the Grand Ducal Family, the solemn "**Te Deum**" is sung with interludes of singing by the "Chorale St. Cécile".

After the Te Deum, everyone proceeds together to the "Paul Barblé" cultural centre for a commemorative speech by the Mayor and the Wine of Honour. Young and old are invited to join in the celebrations. We are also very pleased to greet our fellow residents from abroad on this day and to celebrate the occasion with them.

Spill mat

Every year, on 23 June, the National Day of Luxembourg, the children of the commune are invited to "Park Riedgen". Here, the commune, in conjunction with the Commission for Integration, organises a celebratory afternoon of games. The children can take part in traditional games of skill,

competitions and team sports. They can spend the entire afternoon skipping, running, balancing, throwing and catching. Every year, the theme of the party is different. The costumes of the entertainers, the games and the fringe events are all designed according to that year's theme. So the occasion is new and unique every time.



<u>Nuetsralley</u>

One evening at the end of June / beginning of July, the commune, in conjunction with the Youth Commission, organises a "Nuetsralley" at the Fraiheetsbam. A course is negotiated through the forest on foot with torches in hand,

stopping at various checkpoints to answer questions and play games of skill. The victors win a prize at the end. Every year, there are more groups joining in the fun.

Stroossefestival

Every 2 years in September, the Stroossefestival is held in Strassen. This festival is described in detail in the section on "Culture" (7.1.) in this brochure. It is well worth a visit.

Kleeschen

In December, children look forward to "de Kleeschen". In the tradition of St. Nicholas, "de Kleeschen" hands out lots of toys and sweets to the children of Luxembourg on 6 December. The schools in the commune remain closed on this day.

On the Sunday before 6 December, "de Kleeschen" also visits the Paul Barblé cultural centre. Weather permitting, he is picked up by a carriage and welcomed at the cultural centre by the Mayor and the members of the Communal Council. The children of the commune perform little shows that they have prepared and sing "Nikloslidder" songs. Then, together with his companion, "Housecker", "de Kleeschen" greets every child in person and presents each one with a bag full of treats.

"Housecker" was originally supposed to admonish "bad" children. As recently as the end of the Second World War, he would still put particularly naughty boys in his sack and carry them off. It is said that he even smacked one or two with his long rod. But, have no fear, those days are gone and every child in the commune is invited with open arms.

Christmas Market

For a few years now, Strassen has hosted a Christmas market. Small wooden stalls are erected on the square next to the Town Hall, producing a wonderful aroma of mulled wine, popcorn, bratwurst and raclette. Fanfare provides music, the "Hueflachspatzen" children's choir sings songs. You can buy Christmas decorations and small gifts, immerse yourself in the convivial atmosphere and get into the Christmas spirit. Sounds enticing, doesn't it? To make it all come together, a lot of private initiative is required from the local clubs and associations who provide for the varied offering and cater to the physical wellbeing of the visitors.



Food Market

Every **2nd and 4th Friday** in the month, there is a food market in the car park in front of the Paul Barblé cultural centre between **4 p.m. and 7 p.m**.

Here you will find both conventional and organic regional produce, fruit, vegetables, meat, fish and baked goods. But more than anything else, it is a meeting point for the local community. A number of the commune's clubs and associations take turns in running the bar "Um Märtchen". This offers a good opportunity to chat with neighbours and meet friends and acquaintances, to share the latest news and start the weekend in a good mood.



1.7. "Being a good neighbour"

If you live in an apartment, please make sure you find out how the duties in your building are shared and what contribution you are expected to make.

Clearing snow

Regardless of whether you are a tenant or a home-owner, if you live in a single-family house you must keep the pavement in front of your house free of snow and ice in winter. Roads and paths are cleared by the commune. You may be held liable for injuries suffered by pedestrians outside your house if you have not fulfilled your duty to clear the pavement properly. Obviously, everyone is obliged to dress appropriately for the weather and to walk with care, but a layer of snow or ice that makes it impossible to use the pavement must be cleared. Road salt helps on icy pavements and reduces the risk of slipping. It is available from supermarkets, DIY stores and often petrol stations as well.

Lawn mowing / gardening

In summer, you must mow the grass around your house. It is up to you to decide how regularly to do this. If a lawn is mown so rarely that weeds grow and spread to neighbouring gardens or annoy neighbours, you will be obliged to mow the lawn. If the situation is so bad, your neighbours or even the commune may report you. But please note that you are not allowed to mow on Sundays or public holidays. You should also refrain from doing any work around the house that creates a lot of noise during lunchtimes. Show consideration for your neighbours.

Refuse collection

Dustbins and refuse sacks must be placed by the side of the road for collection. To ensure that you do not miss this service, it is a good idea to take your rubbish out on the evening before, but please do not do so several days in advance. You should then bring your empty bin back in during the course of the day. If possible, make sure that neither full nor empty bins and containers pose any danger to pedestrians or traffic. Further information on household refuse collections can be found in section 4.

Strassen is home to people from more than 90 different nations. All arrive with their own practices, patterns and cultural customs. So, it can happen that misunderstandings arise. Tolerance and understanding, but particularly curiosity and openness, are the key to ensuring that such diversity in Strassen represents a great opportunity for our commune and for everyone who lives here.

2 Police, Ambulance, Fire Brigade

Emergency numbers

The emergency telephone number for the **police** in Luxembourg is **113**.

For the fire brigade and ambulance service, dial 112.

Police



Strassen police station can be found at 120A, Route d'Arlon. The station is open on Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. and from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. It can also be reached by calling **244 352-00**.

Anyone living in Strassen can also contact the police headquarters in Capellen around the clock. Even outside the opening times of the local station, you can always call the headquarters for help on **499 735-00** if you need the police after, say, a burglary or an accident.

In an emergency, please use the emergency numbers 112 and 113.

Emergency doctors and pharmacists

In the daily newspapers you will find details of the duty pharmacies and hospitals should you require emergency treatment.

You can also obtain this information at any time by calling the Postinfotel service on **9007 1234**. You can also ring this service for weather reports (add number **01**), road traffic reports (add number **7**) and much more besides. For pharmacies add number **31** and for duty hospitals add **32**. It is worth giving the number a call anyway some time and listening in so you have a general idea of how this service works.

You will find further information on this service on one of the first few pages of your telephone book. Please note that this facility provided by the postal service incurs a charge.

3 Medical Care and Social Welfare

Health insurance

Health insurance is mandatory in Luxembourg for all residents. The contributions are paid by the employer and the employee, with each paying half. Foreigners coming to Luxembourg to live but not to work, such as people of independent means or pensioners, must furnish proof that they have health insurance in order to obtain an authorisation to stay. Anyone who works in various countries can opt for a special health insurance policy that is valid in a number of states. There are also special arrangements for employees with "non-resident" tax status. They are individually exempt from contributions to the Luxembourg social insurance system and are insured by their employer.

Health insurance for family members

All family members who belong to the household, including children up to the age of 27 who are in full-time education or are unemployed, are also covered automatically. They are entitled to the same insurance benefits as the insured is personally.

Visits to the doctor

The Luxembourg health system is based on reimbursement. After receiving medical treatment, you present your paid bill to your health insurer, who will reimburse you for your outlay according to the applicable percentage rate. To find out what this rate is, please ask your health insurer. In the case of prescriptions, there are four different categories, for

which reimbursement ranges from 0% to 100%. Dental and eye treatment is also covered, but you must find out beforehand what form of treatment requires pre-approval and how high the reimbursement rate is. Emergency treatment abroad is usually reimbursed at the same percentage rates as treatment domestically. Any medical bill containing tariffs that exceed the insurer's tariffs or treatment that is ineligible for reimbursement is either not reimbursed or only reimbursed according to the applicable tariff. If you have any questions about the current health insurance tariff, reimbursable forms of treatment or the applicable percentage rate, please contact your health insurance provider.

Private supplementary health insurance

Many people in Luxembourg take out voluntary supplementary insurance with a non-profit health insurer or a mutual association. Many employers offer such supplementary insurance as a special employment benefit on preferential terms. These insurance providers reimburse those costs that exceed the tariff operated by the statutory health insurers. Many also offer additional benefits, such as a private room in the hospital, coverage of costs for glasses and contact lenses, dental treatment and medical treatment outside Luxembourg. The cost of this supplementary insurance varies depending on the tariff chosen and the person to be insured. It always covers just one person, meaning that separate insurance must be taken out and paid for in respect of each family member.

Medical care

A number of doctors have opened practices in Strassen. The Communal Administration has compiled a list of all doctors,

psychologists, physiotherapists and others in the healthcare sector working in Strassen, with their addresses, telephone numbers and surgery hours. This list can be found on the commune's website at **www.strassen.lu** under "Adresses utiles". If you require, you can also obtain a copy of the list from the Communal Administration. Just call **Ms Luiza Sosna** on **310 262 – 270**.

Centre médical



The "Centre médical", or medical centre, is a facility run by the commune where you will find central aroup doctors and therapists as well as a laboratory for blood tests and other analyses. It is housed at 239, Route d'Arlon

Maison medicale

The Maisons medicales are health centres you can go to for primary medical care outside your family doctor's normal opening times. You will find one in the city of Luxembourg at 59, Rue Michel Welter, L-2730 Luxembourg, one at 70, Rue Emile Mayrisch, L-4240 Esch/Alzette and one at 110, Avenue Lucien Salentiny, L-9080 Ettelbruck. The Maisons medicales are open on Mondays to Fridays between 8 p.m. and 7 a.m., and on weekends and public holidays from 8 o'clock

in the morning until 7 o'clock on the following morning. Brochures are available from the Communal Administration which outline the health complaints that can be dealt with in a Maison medicale and provide details of how to reach your nearest facility.

Infant clinic

Between 9 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. on every 1st and 3rd Wednesday in the month, the "Centre médico-social", or Social Medical Centre, runs an infant clinic in Strassen, currently at "Ben Heyart" school.

Here, children up to the age of 4 can be examined free of charge without an appointment. A paediatrician and a paediatric nurse weigh and measure the children, listen to their heart and lungs and answer parents' questions about nutrition, sleep patterns and other problems. All the necessary information and dates can be found on the website www.ligue.lu/fr/activites/nourrissons.html.

Krank Kanner Doheem / Liewensufank initiative

For sick children who cannot be looked after by their parents who are out at work there is the "**Krank Kanner Doheem**" service.

Call **480 779** for help or to request someone to look after your child in your own home in your absence. The "**Liewensufank initiative**" on Rue de Contern in Itzig offers a similar service for very small children or pregnant mothers. For all further information, please call **360 598** or visit the website at **www.liewensufank.lu**.

Family benefits

For all applications and queries relating to family benefits, ranging from the birth grant and maternity benefit to paid parental leave and through to child benefit, which is dependent on the number of children in a family, the Caisse Nationale des Prestations Familiales, or National Family Benefits Office, of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is the place to go. The website of this government agency can be found at www.cnpf.lu. All information is written in French. A brochure in German is also available on the Internet via the following link: www.cnpf.lu/Brochure/BROCHURE%20D.pdf. This contains a description of all the grants, the prerequisites for receiving them and the application formalities. A printed version of this brochure can also be obtained from the head office of the child benefit fund at 34, Av. de la Porte Neuve, L-2227 Luxemboura.

Help / Hellef Doheem

If adults need help at home due to an illness or in connection with a stay in hospital, they can turn to the "Help" organisation. Help is a Red Cross service. You can obtain all the information you will need by calling 267 026. The "Hellef Doheem" service also offers help and care at home. This care service is provided by Caritas and can be contacted on telephone number 263 176-1.

Seechomes

"Seechomes" (busy ants) is a scheme launched by a number of communes that provides employment for young unemployed people. In the tradition of neighbourly assistance, this service offers help with the following for older members of the commune aged 60 and above, the disabled and anyone temporarily requiring assistance due to an illness:

- DIY tasks, such as roller shutter repairs and door lock replacements,
- Sanitary plumbing, such as leaking taps or blocked plugholes,
- Gardening, such as moving and aerating lawns or trimming hedges,
- Seasonal work, such as clearing snow and brushing leaves,
- Decorating, such as painting and wallpapering.

Help is also offered in various ways with housework, tending graves, transporting shopping and such like. Call **261 035 19** to find out whether and how you can take advantage of this service.

Meals on Wheels (Repas sur roues)

Repas sur roues is a service that delivers ready-to-eat meals to the sick and elderly. More detailed information about this service can be obtained by calling the Communal Administration on 310 262-1

Costs of social services

The above services incur a charge. Prices and tariffs often depend on the social and financial situation of the users. For cost information, simply call the telephone numbers provided.

<u>Assisted living for older citizens</u> <u>Centre residentiel "Riedgen"</u>

The Riedgen complex at **30A**, **Rue Henri Dunant** provides elderly people with suitable housing. This spacious facility offers barrier-free living in modern and functional but very



cosy apartments that look out onto the park surrounding the building. The Communal Administration has a waiting list for these apartments, which is managed by **Ms Josiane Klose** (tel. 310 262-213). The Riedgen complex can also be contacted directly by telephone on 263 155-1.

Living allowance (Allocation de vie chère)

The commune grants annual support to low-income households. A communal circular provides information once a year on when applications can be submitted and what conditions must be met.

Social welfare (Assistance sociale)

Anyone suffering economic hardship can turn to the Social Welfare Office. Strassen has a Social Welfare Adviser, Ms Tamara Maia Romao, who can offer help by working together with the commune, the Red Cross and government agencies. She has her office in the Paul Barblé cultural centre, at 203, Route d'Arlon, and can be contacted by calling 310 262-477. She can provide you with advice on the various allowances and forms of help for which you are eligible, as well as assistance with applying for them. For details of Ms Maia Romao's office hours, visit the commune's website at www.strassen.lu or ask at the commune's Reception Desk.

4 Waste Disposal





At the start of every year, the Sidor environment calendar is distributed to every household in the commune.

It marks all the collection dates for the various types of refuse.

Household refuse

Household refuse is usually collected every Tuesday. Any changes to this schedule due to, say, public holidays, can be found in the environment calendar mentioned above. Household refuse is collected in grey bins. These bins should be placed on the pavement in front of the house or by the side of the road on the evening prior to the collection. Bins must be closed. The lid must not be upright or open in any way, and there should be nothing hanging out of the bin. Bags, boxes or other containers alongside the grey bin will not be emptied or removed. Bins that are overflowing and cannot be closed will not be emptied either. If on the odd occasion you happen to have more rubbish to dispose of than will fit in your bin, you can purchase grey refuse sacks from the Reception Desk of the Communal Administration.

Removal is included in the price of these sacks. These specially labelled sacks will be taken away by the refuse collectors on the collection day. The grey bins are supplied to every household by the commune. To request one, contact **Mr Christian Colombo (tel. 310 262–221)** at the "service technique". The price that the commune charges for emptying each bin on a monthly basis can also be obtained from Mr Colombo.

Waste paper

Waste paper is taken away on the third Monday in the month. It is collected in blue bins. These bins, like all dustbins, can be requested from Mr Colombo at the "service technique". They are distributed for a fee. The blue waste paper bins are emptied free of charge. They are only intended for paper or cardboard. Plastic bags that have been used to collect waste paper in the home must not be placed in the bin, nor should files, folders, photographs, milk cartons, paper clips, staples and binders made of metal, plastic, wood or other materials. This all makes recycling impossible or at the very least difficult.

Organic waste

Garden waste, such as grass cuttings, leaves and moss, as well as fruit and vegetable peelings, dead cut flowers, withered pot plants, short hedge clippings and the like, can all be disposed of in the green bins. Leftover food, such as bread, egg shells, fish, meat, teabags and coffee grounds, can also be disposed of ecologically in this manner. Only substances that are unsuitable for fermentation, such as potting soil and woody hedge clippings, should not be placed in this bin. These 120-litre or 240-litre bins are supplied by the commune to Strassen households on payment of a one-off fee. The bins are collected free of charge every

Monday, with a few exceptions in winter.

Every 3rd Monday in the month, branches up to 10 cm in diameter, which do not fit in these bins, are collected if they are placed alongside the green bin in bundles of up to 1.50 m in length and 20 kg in weight. If you wish to use this service, please report to the commune's Reception Desk three working days in advance (tel. 310 262-1 or e-mail reception@strassen.lu).

Anyone who does not want to wait for the household collection service can also drop off organic waste at the Kehlen biogas plant between Kopstal and Quatre Vents. The biogas plant is open from 1 April to 31 October on Monday to Saturday between 8.30 a.m. and 11.45 a.m. and then again between 1.15 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. With a minimum delivery quantity of 100 litres and a charge of EUR 3 per delivery, it is not just grass cuttings that can be disposed of, but also leaves, garden plants, moss and weeds.

The city of Luxembourg's recycling park at rue de Stade also accepts grass cuttings, leaves, garden plants, moss, pot plants, withered flowers and the like on Monday to Friday between 7 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. There is no minimum quantity here and no charge either.

The most ecologically and financially beneficial way of disposing of organic waste is to make compost from it yourself in your own garden. While doing away with the need for transport, the compost you make serves to improve the soil and often saves on expensive fertilisers and commercial soil improvers.

Christmas trees

Bare Christmas trees are collected on one Sunday at the beginning of January. Please check the environment calendar for the exact date. The trees must be placed by the side of the road in good time. All decorations and lights must have been removed. Only real trees are collected, not artificial ones made of plastic or other materials.

Recycling / Valorlux

The commune of Strassen takes part in the Valorlux collections of recyclable household refuse. The Communal Administration issues Valorlux collection sacks and information material free of charge. All kinds of clean Tetra Paks, tins, metal screw caps and plastic bottles are collected in these sacks. Precise instructions on what packaging can be recycled using this system can be found in the Valorlux sorting guide available in the commune. For collection, the blue sacks must be closed tight and placed by the side of the road in such a manner that they

cannot be blown away by the wind. Collection takes place every other Thursday and is free of charge.



Waste glass

The household collection service for waste glass is also free. The commune provides the citizens of Strassen with green baskets in which clean, empty bottles and glass can be collected. Glass containers of all kinds, ideally without plastic or metal caps, are taken away on the first Friday in the month. Ceramics, stoneware or porcelain cannot be disposed of in these baskets.

Old clothes collection

An old clothes collection takes place twice a year in Strassen. A few days beforehand special plastic bags are distributed to every household. An accompanying leaflet provides information on what clothes or textiles are being collected and when the bag should be placed by the side of the road for collection. Make sure the bag is closed tight.

<u>Special waste / SuperDrecksKëscht</u>



SuperDrecksKëscht is the name of the special waste collection agency that stops off in Strassen near the car park on Rue Feyder once every three months. Here you can dispose of old batteries, waste oil, paint, varnish, aerosols, pesticides, chemicals,

cosmetics, old medications, old CDs/DVDs, used light bulbs and small electrical appliances, such as faulty toasters, hair dryers or CD players and the like, all in an environmentally friendly manner. The commune has information brochures with precise details of what can be disposed of as well as good tips on how to avoid special waste. The exact dates of the collection in Strassen can also be discovered by looking at the environment calendar or inquiring in the commune.

Bulky refuse

Bulky refuse is taken away in Strassen on every first Tuesday in the month. However, residents need to specifically request collection. You should report to the commune's Reception Desk no later than 7 days prior to the next collection date, providing details of what is to be collected.

If you need to dispose of large electrical items or electronic waste, such as computers, contact the relevant employee of the "service technique", **Mr Christian Colombo**, by telephone on **310 262-221**.

Waste disposal

Should you have any further questions on refuse disposal in Strassen, please contact Mr Colombo at the Technical Services Department or the staff on the Reception Desk of the Communal Administration.

Recycling centre

Residents of the commune of Strassen can take recyclable waste to the recycling centre in the city of Luxembourg. This centre on **Rue du Stade** offers our inhabitants the opportunity to dispose of waste that is recyclable but



also harmful to the environment in an ecologically sound and responsible manner. It is open on Monday to Saturday from 7 a.m. until 7.30 p.m. and can be contacted by telephone on 479 636 40 or by e-mail to hygiène@vdl.lu.

5. Transport and Traffic

5.1. Private transport

Resident parking



Resident parking is in force within the bounds of the commune of Strassen. The parking sector ST has been introduced for the whole of Strassen. Vehicles without a resident parking permit can park with a parking disc for two or four hours free of charge, or for 2, 3 or 4 hours with a charge, depending on the maximum stay displayed on the sign.

Residents with a parking permit may park for up to 48 hours in the same place, according to the traffic regulations (except in the orange and red zones). To

obtain a resident parking permit, the vehicle owner must be a registered resident of the commune and must have registered his or vehicle in his or her own name in Luxembourg and/or must be registered as the owner of the vehicle. Such a permit can also be requested for rental or company cars if a certificate is furnished proving that the applicant has been given this vehicle for private use as well.

Car re-registration

Foreign vehicles must be registered here within the first 6 months of relocating to Luxembourg. Contact the SNCT (Société Nationale de Contrôle Technique) in Sandweiler (11, Rue de Luxembourg, L-5230 Sandweiler - www.snct.lu) to obtain a Luxembourg registration number and to re-register your vehicle. You must present the Certificat de résidence, or residence certificate, issued to you at the Residents' Registration Office. The SNCT will then tell you where you can obtain the new number plate. You must then take out car insurance for the car under this registration number with a Luxembourg insurer. The next step is to go to the Customs Office (Centre Dougnier, Croix de Gasperich) P&R Sud, L-1350 Luxembourg). There you will be issued with import papers for your vehicle. Depending on the age of the vehicle, there will be no customs duties, but you will have to pay processing fees in any case. The old vehicle papers will be taken from you and replaced with new Luxembourg ones. Once the vehicle has been imported and insured in Luxembourg, it must undergo a technical inspection at the SNCT in Sandweiler. This inspection is similar to the MOT test in the UK. If the inspection raises no problems, used vehicles are approved for road use for the next 12 months.

In the classified telephone directory you will also find service providers who can handle this entire process for you.

Driving licence registration

Driving licences from EU Member States are recognised by the authorities of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Since 30 June 1995, it has not been necessary to replace them. It is, however, recommended that you register your licence here on moving to Luxembourg to speed up the process of issuing a new one as and when required. Luxembourg authorities are responsible for issuing a replacement document in the event of the loss or theft of a driving licence belonging to a foreigner resident in Luxembourg.

The competent authority is the National Society for Technical Control (Société nationale de contrôle technique - SNCT).

For a new driving licence to be issued, however, you must be able to prove that you are actually licensed to drive. If you registered your driving licence in Luxembourg, there will be no problem issuing you with a replacement document. If your licence was not registered, you will have to contact your embassy, who will be able to inform you of which authorities in your native country can issue you with a certificate acceptable to the Luxembourg authorities that will then issue the replacement document. This process may take a while, during which time you will not be permitted to drive any vehicle.

If you have further questions, you will find detailed information on the website **www.guichet.public.lu** under Transports / Mobilité.

Parking permits

The commune of Strassen issues every household with up to two parking permits free of charge. These have the registration number (max. 2 per permit) of the authorised vehicle printed on them. The permits are valid for one year, and each year they are renewed automatically and sent out by post.

A further resident parking permit can be issued for a fee of EUR 100 for 6 months or EUR 200 for 12 months. This particular permit is not extended automatically; it has to be renewed once it expires. If necessary, a second vehicle can be noted on each permit. It is not, however, possible to record a registration number twice on the same permit or on two different permits.

Aside from the aforementioned permits, there is also a visitor parking permit that can be issued once a year per household for between 1 week and 3 months.

A provisional resident parking permit, valid for 6 months, can be issued for vehicles still registered abroad that are owned by new residents who have recently registered in the commune. Should you have any further questions, please contact the "Service Circulation / Parking", or Traffic / Parking Department, where Mr Gilles Eckardt can be reached on telephone number 310 262-238 and Mr Luc Eicher on telephone number 310 262-220 during the commune's business hours.



Muster Mann 999, rue du Kien L-8030 Strassen

Parking zones

In the Communal Administration you will find a map showing the various parking zones. Please pay attention to the parking spaces marked in orange (kiss&go) or red – even residents with parking permits are only allowed to park here for 30 or 60 minutes and have to display a parking disc.

There are also yellow parking zones, which the commune of Strassen shares with the city of Luxembourg. Anyone not automatically authorised to park here must pay a fee at a ticket dispenser to park for up to 3 hours. Holders of a Strassen parking permit may park here free of charge. You will recognise a sector of this nature by the signs.

These must mention not just the sector of the city of Luxembourg, but also the sector ST for Strassen. The location of these zones is indicated on the parking zones map, which also points out other special features and contains all the information you will need.

Zone 30

Zone 30 was introduced within the bounds of the commune of Strassen in 2009. The speed limit on all local roads and in all residential areas is 30 kmph.

There are signposts to inform you when you are entering and leaving a Zone 30.

Besides the speed limit, there are also various other specifics that must be observed in a Zone 30. The Communal Administration has information brochures all about this subject.

Shared space (Zone de rencontre / Zone 20)

In front of the parish hall on Rue des Romains, a "zone de rencontre" is about to be introduced. There are no real road markings or pavements here. Vehicles and pedestrians have equal right of way. Traffic speed is restricted to 20 kmph, and parking is only permitted in the specially designated orange (kiss&go) zone.



5.2. Local public transport

Bus@Stroossen

The commune of Strassen provides its residents with the Bus@Stroossen service. Bus@Stroossen is a modern local public transport concept. At your request, the bus will pick you up outside your home and take you to wherever you want to go within the bounds of the commune of Strassen. Simply call 8002 14 14 to request the Bus@Stroossen service. Each journey costs 2 euros. Holders of a valid RGTR ticket (bus ticket) pay just 1 euro. Children under the age of 6 accompanied by an adult travel for free, as do holders of a disabled card, a seniors card or a Jumbo Card.



Bus route 8

Bus route 8 of the public transport network of the city of Luxembourg connects Strassen with all the major transport hubs of the capital city. An up-to-date timetable showing stops and departure times can be found in the Town Hall or on the Internet at www.autobus.lu and www.vdl.lu.

Bus route 222

This bus route, run by Luxembourg National Railways (CFL), is the direct route from Strassen into the capital city Luxembourg. It calls at various stops on Route d'Arlon and travels via the Centre Hospitalier and Aldringen central bus station as far as the cinemas and shops in the Kirchberg quarter.

Bus route J2

This bus route connects Reckenthal with the centre of the capital city and the station.

The Bartreng/Stroossen bus

The commune of Strassen operates its own bus route together with the neighbouring commune of Bartringen. This is a free service that connects "La Belle Etoile" shopping centre with Bartringen station and Bourmicht business park. A timetable showing the stops and travel times can be found on the commune of Strassen's website at www.strassen.lu. The Communal Administration also has timetables that you can take away with you.

Late Night Bus route 222

"Late Night Bus 222" is there for anyone wishing to explore the capital city at night. It is a free service offered by the communes of Steinfort, Koerich, Mamer and Strassen. This route, which operates on Friday and Saturday nights all year round, offers you the opportunity to travel home from the cinema or a restaurant in the city without taking your own car. It is a service not only for young people but for anyone who would prefer a night out without having to drive. The exact travel times can be found on the commune's website or in a leaflet available from the Communal Administration.



Late Night Bus "Nuetseil"

If Late Night Bus route 222 does not meet your needs, the commune of Strassen, together with the commune of Bartringen, offers the free Late Night Bus "Nuetseil". Everything you need to know about this service as well can be found on the commune's website and, of course, in the Town Hall.

Night-Rider

The Night-Rider is a weekend bus that will pick you up from any Luxembourg address and take you to wherever you which to go in the Grand Duchy on Friday and Saturday nights between 6 p.m. and 5 a.m. A single journey costs 12 euros, while a return ticket is 18 euros. You can book the Night-Rider during the week from 8 a.m. onwards by calling **8002 1010**. You can rest assured that it will take you to your destination without any fuss. If you have any questions, visit the website at **www.nightrider.lu**.

Novabus

The Novabus service is for the benefit of people with limited mobility. It can be used by anyone with a walking, visual or hearing impairment or even a mental disability. Novabus aims to make it easier to take part in social activities. The bus can be used for journeys to work, trips to the doctor, shopping excursions and various leisure activities anywhere in the Grand Duchy. The bus can be reserved for the next day by calling **8002 33 00** from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. on Monday to Friday and from 7 a.m. until midday on Saturday. A single journey costs 5 euros, while a same-day return ticket is 8 euros. The bus operates between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. on Monday to Thursday and between 7 a.m. and midnight on Friday to Sunday as well as on statutory public holidays.

Novabus has select (9-seater) minibuses with a wheelchair ramp so wheelchairs and rollator walkers can be transported without any difficulty.

The drivers speak Luxembourgish, French and German. Further information can be found on the website **www.novabus.lu**.



notre priorité, c'est vous!

5.3 Soft mobility / cyclists and pedestrians

Soft mobility (Mobilité douce)

In 2004, the Luxembourg government transposed the Amsterdam declaration "Vélo Mondial 2000" into national law. According to this declaration, the environmentally friendly and healthy options of cycling and walking should be promoted for short trips.

This objective should be supported by expanding cycle paths, establishing a national network of cycle paths and connecting local cycle paths up to supra-regional ones, as well as by creating safe footpaths, a sufficient number of safe crossings in the form of zebra crossings, traffic lights and footbridges, and similar infrastructural facilities.

Véloh

To promote soft mobility, the city of Luxembourg has introduced the "Véloh" scheme.

Under this scheme there are vélohs, or bicycles, parked in special stations all over the city that can be rented cheaply 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Strassen joined the scheme in 2011 and now offers bicycles to rent in four locations: at



the aquatic centre "Les Thermes", at the bus stop opposite the Town Hall, by the bridge over the motorway on Rue du Kiem and on Rue des Mérovingiens in Bourmicht business park. To use this

service, you can choose between a long-term card valid for one year and a short-term ticket valid for 7 days.

You will find everything you need to know about this service in a brochure available from the Town Hall or on the website **www.veloh.lu**.



6 Children

6.1 Schools, childcare

Once a year, the commune publishes its Schoulbuet, or School Bulletin. This brochure contains everything you need to know about the Luxembourg school system and the schools of the commune of Strassen. It also has detailed information on the various childcare services within the commune.

Day-care centres

Strassen has several private day-care centres that offer their services for small children from 6 weeks of age. You can obtain a current list of providers and their addresses from the Communal Administration.

Elementary school (École fondamentale)



The term elementary school or école fondamentale covers early childhood education (précoce) and pre-school as well as elementary school. Elementary education in Luxembourg spans a period of minimum 8 years. This time is divided not into school years, but into 4 cycles, each lasting at least two years. This means that every single pupil is given the time he or she individually needs to achieve the educational targets for each cycle.

At the end of each cycle, a final assessment determines whether the pupil can move on to the next cycle. Six times per cycle, at the end of each trimester, parents are informed about how their child is progressing. Grades, in the conventional sense, are no longer awarded. Children with learning difficulties receive special encouragement and support.

Cycle 1

The commune offers early education, formerly known as "classe précoce", to children from their 3rd birthday. On Monday to Friday from 8.15 a.m. until midday, as well as afternoons on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m., children are looked after by a certified female teacher and a female educator. They specifically encourage the children to develop their language and communication skills. Creativity, motor skills and social behaviour are also promoted. This is where initial contact with Luxembourgish and Luxembourg culture is established for children from abroad.

The "classe précoce" is a free service provided by the commune, which is open to all children within the commune but it is not mandatory.

Children in Luxembourg are obliged to attend school from the age of 4. 1 September is the cut-off date for enrolment. The new school year starts every year on 15 September.

In Strassen, children are enrolled in one of the classes of Cycle 1.1 + 1.2 (formerly pre-elementary school). Here, children aged 4 and 5 are looked after together in one class. A certified teacher not only builds on what the children have already learnt in the "classe précoce", she also prepares them specifically for primary school, particularly in the second year. Their motor skills are also refined.

Foreign children are helped with learning Luxembourgish in small groups.

Of course, there is still plenty of time for fun and games. Excursions are part of the curriculum, as are sports lessons in the sports hall and swimming lessons at the aquatic centre "Les Thermes", and there is also ample opportunity to run about and play in the school's own indoor and outdoor play areas.

Cycle 2 / Cycle 3 / Cycle 4

At 6 years of age, most children leave Cycle 1 and move on to Cycle 2, which used to be years 1 and 2 of elementary school. Strassen has two schools for these classes: the new "Ben Heyart" school and the "Hueflach" school complex. At both, the children are taught in modern classrooms furnished with all the technical equipment needed for contemporary and effective lessons. Literacy is taught in German. The spoken language at the school is Luxembourgish, as it is during pre-school. French is introduced as a foreign language in the middle of the second school year.

Lessons begin at 7.55 a.m. and end at midday. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday there are also lessons in the afternoon from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. There are no lessons on Saturday.

All primary school pupils in classes 1 to 4 (Cycle 2.1 to 3.2) in Strassen take part in 3 hours of sport or swimming every week. Pupils in classes 5 and 6 (Cycle 4.1. and 4.2.) receive 2 hours a week of tuition in sport or swimming. You can find all the schools of the commune on the Internet at www.ecoles-strassen.lu or www.stroossener-schoulen.lu. You can also contact the relevant employee in the commune, Ms Josiane Klose (tel. 310 262-213).

School bus

Strassen offers a free school bus service. Three buses collect children of pre-elementary age and older in the morning and then after school at midday take them back to the school bus stop nearest their home. This bus service also operates in the afternoon on the days mentioned above. Details of the exact departure times and stops can be found in the commune's Schoulbuet.

Children attending secondary schools in the capital city can use bus route 233, which travels to the city's grammar schools at Geeseknäppchen and Limpertsberg. Information on this bus route can be obtained from the secondary schools. It can also be found in the commune's Schoulbuet or on the commune's website at www.strassen.lu under "Mobilité dans la commune".

<u>Pedibus</u>

For some residential areas near the school there is a "Pedibus" service in operation. This "bus" has stops, fixed travel times and a driver – but not a vehicle in sight. The

children make their way to school on foot in the company of adults.



They arrive at school safely and on time, and return home in the same way, walking in the fresh air accompanied by their schoolmates. Find out whether the Pedibus stops off somewhere near you. It is good for our environment and for the health of the children. You will find everything you need to know about this service in the commune's "Schoulbuet" and at www.ecoles-strassen.lu or www.stroossener-schoulen.lu.

Maison Relais – childcare service for school children

The Maison Relais "Am Bongert" was opened in 2008 in collaboration with the Red Cross in Luxembourg (Croix-Rouge). It looks after between 360 and 380 children aged 3 to 12 on a daily basis.

The Maison Relais is open all year round on Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. It is only closed for one week during the Christmas holidays. The office is staffed daily between 7.45 a.m. and 6 p.m., and the Maison Relais can be contacted by telephone on **310 262-999**.

The Maison Relais service is available to all children enrolled in schools in the commune of Strassen, subject to numbers. If the demand exceeds the number of places available, priority is given to the following children:

- Children from single-parent families
- Children from families in difficult situations (social di sadvantages)
- Children from families where both parents work full-time
- Disabled children, who are integrated into the groups where possible.

The school canteen is connected to the Maison Relais. Meals here are prepared fresh every day in the kitchen of the Maison Relais and meet all the requirements for a healthy diet for school children.

After school, the children are supervised in the Maison Relais while they do their homework. They are given the

opportunity to focus on their work in peace and to have any questions answered. They are required to work independently. Checking or correcting homework or revision to prepare for class tests is not part of the



Maison Relais service and remains the responsibility of parents. The Maison Relais also offers a broad selection of leisure activities.

You will find a lot more information on the website **www.ecoles-strassen.lu** or **www.stroossener-schoulen.lu** under "Maison Relais".

Out-of-school care costs

Registration is required for all services provided by the Maison Relais and the commune. At the end of every school year, all parents of school-age children receive the necessary registration forms for the next school year, which also provide details of current prices. While use of the school bus is free, costs are incurred for the canteen, afternoon care and help with homework in the Maison Relais, which must be borne by parents.

You can find all the information you need on the individual services and their prices at **www.ecoles-strassen.lu** or **www.strossener-schoule.lu** under "Maison Relais".

Ms Josiane Klose at the Communal Administration will be happy to answer any questions you may have on Strassen's schools. She can be reached by calling **310 262-213**.

Care vouchers (Cheque service)

Since 1 March 2009, Luxembourg law has offered care vouchers for all children until they complete primary school education; these promise to take care of some of the costs of out-of-school care. To enjoy the benefit of this voucher, an application must be made to the Town Hall, stating the child's social insurance number, accompanied by proof of the parents' current income. Parents are then handed a 12-month card with a weekly offer of 3 free care hours plus 21 discounted care hours (up to 3 euros an hour depending on the parents' income and the number of children in the family). This card must then be renewed prior to its expiry date every year until the child leaves primary school.

If a child is registered with the Maison Relais, the parents can present this card in order to enjoy the benefit of free or discounted care. The card does not constitute an



entitlement to care; it simply means that the Luxembourg government and the commune of Strassen will assume the costs for the first 3 hours each week and some of the costs for the 4th to the

24th hour each week. Parents search for a free place for their children in a care facility of their choice and can then use the vouchers to settle their care costs. Out-of-school education, such as early music education, can also be paid for from September 2009 using care vouchers. If you have any questions about the care vouchers, please call the

Cheque Service office at the Communal Administration and speak to **Ms Melissa De Faria (tel. 310 262-276)** on Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 8 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.

<u>Secondary education</u>

Once they have successfully completed Cycle 4, pupils then attend one of the country's lycées, or secondary schools. On the whole, the Luxembourg school system places great emphasis on language learning.

Further information on the Luxembourg school system in general and on certain schools or options in particular can be found on the website www.guichet.public.lu. The "Enseignement/-Formation" section contains a wealth of useful and interesting facts relating to schools in Luxembourg.

Jumbo Card

The Jumbo Card is an annual subscription entitling pupils and students to use all Luxembourg bus and rail services. It can be purchased from the main railway station or from "Centre Hamilius" / "Centre Aldringen" in the city of Luxembourg. It offers young people in education an affordable way of moving around the Grand Duchy. The commune of Strassen contributes to the costs of this annual card with a subsidy fixed by the Communal Council. On presentation of a copy of this card, a pupil/student ID card or a school certificate (certificat de scolarité) and an application form for the subsidy from the commune, a payment is made to the bank account indicated by the applicant. Further information can be found in the commune's Schoulbuet.

Academic performance bonus (subside scolaire)

Pupils who have passed a school year in secondary education and students who have successfully completed a year of their studies can apply for a performance bonus. Once a year, the commune grants pupils and students in post-primary education a bonus for good performance. The level of the bonus depends on the type of school. If a qualification has been achieved, this carries a greater reward. Application forms for this bonus are available from the Communal Administration between the end of August and the end of October. They are also contained in the Buet, the commune's official newsletter. Further information can be found in the commune's Schoulbuet.

6.2. Leisure activities for children

Holiday activities

During the summer holidays, the commune offers children living here a range of holiday activities in exchange for a small contribution to the costs. Fun and games afternoons and events spanning several days with overnight stays in youth hostels are on the agenda during the summer holidays.

Precise up-to-date information on times and forthcoming offers is given to the children at school. You will also find all the information in the commune's Buet, or you can ask **Ms Josiane Klose** from the commune by calling **310 262-213**.

Clubs and associations

Outside the school holidays, many children prefer to spend their free time with one of the local clubs or associations. A list of all those that are active in Strassen can be found in section 7.5. of this brochure. Alongside sports clubs, there are also clubs and associations for musicians, computer enthusiasts, stamp collectors and model makers. It is worth taking a look at the wide range of opportunities available. For each club or association you will find a contact address and the name of a member you can get in touch with to ask whether it has offerings specifically for children.

UGDA music school

For children interested in music the commune, in collaboration with the UGDA, offers both theoretical tuition and the opportunity to learn to play a great range of instruments.

The UGDA (école de musique de l'union Grand-Duc Apolphe) is a music school active throughout the country with highly qualified teachers and a programme that takes children and adults all the way from their first introduction to music to the giving of their first concerts.

Children aged between 5 and 6 can take the "cours d'initiation à la musique", an introductory course in music that occupies one hour a week.

From the second school year, children embark on the "cours de formation musicale de la division inférieure". This basic music course lasts 4 years and begins in the "année préparatoire", a preparatory year of 1.5 hours a week. Once the child has successfully completed this year, he or



she moves on to three years of "Solfége" – instruction in music theory that takes up two hours a week. At this point, the child can choose to receive practical tuition in an instrument alongside the theory classes. Children can learn to play brass instruments, different

saxophones, drums, piano and guitar. There are also singing lessons for adults.

Mr Remy Thimmesch coordinates all the courses offered by the UGDA in Strassen. You can contact him via his e-mail address [remy.thimmesch@education.lu].

The start of each course coincides with the new school year. Participants must enrol before the summer holidays. Children with a special interest in music or who would like to strive for a career as a musician will find courses at the Conservatoire of the city of Luxembourg that are more advanced in various areas than those of the UGDA. If you are unsure which courses would suit your child or even you yourself, visit the website at www.cml.lu.

Kiewerlecken / Scouts

Strassen's Kiewerlecken association offers a special way of occupying children's leisure time. True to the scouting tradition, it provides plenty of free time in the open air, exposure to local flora and fauna, shared experiences and



adventure. You can find a lot of inform a t i o n on what it has to offer at www.kiewerlecken.lu. The association is a member of the National Scout and Guide Federation of Luxembourg (FNEL) and part of the global Scout Movement. Call 264 804-50 for information on Strassen's Kiewer-

lecken; the scout den is at **66**, **Rue du Boi**s. It is just a few minutes' walk from there to Strassen forest, a frequent and popular destination for the Kiewerlecken children.

Youth centre

The Strassen youth centre is open to young people between the ages of 12 and 26. It is run by the commune together with the Luxembourg Red Cross. Here they can play table football, pool and table tennis. It is also a great place to relax, chat, meet new people, learn new things, have discus-



sions with young people of a similar age and join in one of the amazing events that are always on offer. The centre, located at 1b, Rue de l'Eglise, is open on Tuesday from 2 p.m. until 7 p.m., Wednesday from 3 p.m. until 8 p.m., Thursday from 2 p.m. until 7 p.m., Friday from 4 p.m. until 9 p.m. and Saturday from 3 p.m. until 8 p.m. The youth centre is closed on Sundays.

Ms Carole Schoetter is the person to talk to at the centre. She can be reached on telephone number **261 195 42**.

Babysitting diploma

Once a year, the commune of Strassen offers interested young people aged 16 to 24 the opportunity to train to become a babysitter.

They learn how to look after children of various ages. This training shows babysitters how best to challenge and encourage the children in their care. Newly trained babysitters who have completed all four course days successfully receive a diploma and are entered on the website **babysitting.lu**, which is structured according to location. This website also contains information on babysitting rates and terms.

Bicherbus

Every two months, the "Bicherbus" stops off in Strassen. This library on wheels is headquartered in Diekirch and makes 14 different tours throughout the Grand Duchy, taking in 120 villages, towns and cities. 55,000 different books can be borrowed on presentation of the bar-coded ID available from the bus.

Borrowing is free of charge. Books are offered in a huge variety of subjects and genres. The majority to choose from are aimed at children and young people. Though, adults are just as welcome to use the service. Contact the Communal Administration or visit the commune's website

to find out when the bus will next be in Strassen and where it will be calling. You can also address questions to the Bicherbus directly by e-mail to bicherbus@mcesr.etat.lu, or you can visit the website www.mcesr.public.lu.



Further possible leisure activities for children can be found in section 7.3. of this brochure.

7 Culture and Leisure Time

7.1. Cultural life

Centre Culturel Paul Barblé

In 1882, the engineer Jean-Nicolas-Ernest Barblé bought at auction a property on Route d'Arlon built in 1792. A little while later, around 1900, his son, Pierre-Joseph-Ernest Barblé, founded the metal workshop "Ateliers Ernest Barblé".

In 1979, the Communal Administration purchased the Barblé family estate. Following extensive planning, extension and renovation work, the complex was inaugurated and officially opened as a cultural centre on 7 April 2000.

The centre includes a large festival hall for 400 to 600 people with a stage, conference rooms and workshops for the visual arts, and a large music hall for Fanfare. Many of the further education and advanced training courses offered by the commune are held here, as are concerts, theatrical performances and information events.



In a nutshell, a very large portion of the cultural life of the commune happens here.

The monthly Cultural Flyer, which is sent out to all Strassen households, will tell you all about upcoming events in good time. All the information can also be found on the commune's website at **www.strassen.lu** under "Agenda".

"A Spiren" gallery

The commune's art gallery is named after the field name "A Spiren" and is located inside the complex of the Paul Barblé cultural centre. The building adjoins the "Maison Barblé" on Route d'Arlon and offers 2 exhibition rooms that regularly host exhibitions of the works of national and international artists.

New exhibitions are announced monthly in the Cultural Flyer, which is distributed to every household. The section "Arts et Culture" on the commune's website at **www.strassen.lu** will tell you all about the gallery.

The commune's Cultural Affairs Commissioner, **Ms Miga Thill** (tel. 310 2 62-241), is in charge of organising the exhibitions and will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



<u>Stroossefestival</u>



Every two years in September, when the Stroossefestival takes place in Strassen, street performers, artistes and jugglers from home and abroad come together in the streets around the Town Hall. Every time anew they thrill their audience with breathtaking acrobatics,

fabulous humour, skill and magic. A diverse programme of music and entertainment is also provided as well as a rich selection of culinary delights.

The Stroossefestival has been a huge success in Strassen ever since it began in 2002. It gives artistes a platform to showcase their unique abilities to an enthusiastic audience. Visitors come not only from Strassen, but also from all over Luxembourg and elsewhere in Europe. They love the close proximity to the performers and the very special atmosphere here. You will not find many festivals like this anywhere else. Be sure not to miss it! (Even years only.)

Biennale d'Art Contemporain de la Commune de Strassen

In 2001, the commune organised its Biennale for the first time, in collaboration with the Culture Commission. Since then, it has become a permanent fixture for May in the cultural calendar of every year that ends in an odd number. This competition for what is currently the most lucrative art prize in Luxembourg is aimed at national and international contemporary artists. The works of art are placed on public display in the "A Spiren" gallery and in the festival hall of the cultural centre for two weeks. A jury then picks the prize-winner. The Biennale is regularly the highlight of cultural life in the commune and it has earned an excellent



reputation even beyond our national borders, each time attractina more interested artists and visitors alike from both home and abroad. Every visitor has the opportunity to learn about the latest artistic movements and to see an impressive selection of the most varied trends in contemporary art all in one place. Every Biennale is accompanied by a top-quality catalogue with images of all the artworks involved in the

Biennale as well as interesting information about each work of art and its creator. This goes on sale during the Biennale. The commune's Cultural Affairs Commissioner, Ms Miga Thill (tel. 310 262-241), will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Wednesday concerts

Once a month, the commune organises its traditional Wednesday concert in the Paul Barblé cultural centre. National and international artists from across the entire musical spectrum invite you to an evening of live music. The concerts are announced each month in the Cultural Flyer.

Stroossener Gespréicher

A cultural offering of a very different kind are the "Stroossener Gespréicher", or Strassen Discussions, launched

in 2011. Twice a year, the commune of Strassen organises a range of talks and discussions together with Forum Europa, a private foundation dedicated to reinforcing and realising the European vision. All residents of Strassen are invited, as is anyone who is interested from neighbouring communes and the entire greater region. Topics on the agenda include current socio-political, economic, social and cultural topics of local, national and wider European significance. Experts or authors are invited, new studies are presented and research projects or new ideas are discussed. Details of the topic for the next event, the guests invited, the time and



date, and the venue are provided by the Strassen Cultural Flyer in good time. We would be delighted to welcome you as a guest on the next occasion of the Strassen Discussions.

7.2. Training and further education

The commune offers its citizens a wide variety of training and further education courses in numerous fields.

Language courses

To begin with, there are various language courses. You can learn Luxembourgish, Italian, English, German, Spanish and French. Some of the courses are aimed at beginners, while others are intended for those with advanced knowledge.

Cooking courses

With the variety of cooking courses available, there is something for everyone. From quick and easy to healthy and balanced, through to exotic Indian cuisine – everything is represented. In the large kitchen of the Paul Barblé cultural centre, up to 14 people on a course can learn to cook, improve their skills or simply pursue their passion for cooking. Each one according to his or her own taste. The course offering may vary from one year to the next.

Art and crafts

In terms of art and crafts, residents can choose from courses in acrylic painting, watercolour painting, silk painting, drawing, ceramics, Tiffany glassware and so much more besides. Beginners as well as those at an advanced level will find like-minded people, fresh ideas and an ideal setting for devoting time to their hobby.

<u>Dancing courses</u>

Dancers get a real kick out of the dancing courses. Ballroom as well as Latin American dances are open to couples

wishing to take up dancing as well as to all those who are looking to perfect their technique.

Computer courses

Computer novices may be interested in an introduction to Word and Excel. Digital photo editing courses aimed at beginners as well as those with advanced knowledge are also available.

Registration / course times

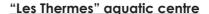
You will find a booklet containing full details of the courses offered in your letterbox at the start of each school year and at the Communal Administration. The courses usually begin in September.

Mr Marc Fonck is the person to contact at the Communal Administration; he coordinates all the courses and will answer any questions you may have. He can be reached at the Town Hall by calling **310 262-237**.

SPOLO sports courses

The commune offers all those interested the chance to attend weekly sports courses from September to July. An information sheet and the necessary registration form can be obtained from the commune. The offering ranges from Nordic Walking to bodybuilding and through to cardiovascular training focusing on the back and stomach muscles.

7.3. Outdoor recreation





In February 2009, the state-of-the-art aquatic centre known as "Les Thermes" opened its doors. In an area spanning 10,000 m², there is a 25m swimming pool complete with diving platform, a teaching pool with an adjustable floor, a toddlers' pool, a wave pool, a heated outdoor pool with a large lawn for sunbathing, two waterslides, a solarium and also various saunas, a Turkish steam bath, revitalising showers and a whirlpool – all there waiting for you. With 1000 m² of water, there is something to please everyone.

"Les Thermes" also has a restaurant to cater for your physical well-being. A fitness centre and a beauty centre complete the package. In autumn 2010, "Les Thermes" was crowned the Most Innovative Waterpark in Europe, welcoming its 500,000th visitor less than 2 years after it

opened. You will find all you need to know about the opening times and all the various offers on the website at **www.lesthermes.net**.



Communal forest

Strassen communal forest offers recreational opportunities for young and old right on your doorstep. This forest spanning 414 ha, together with the "Juckelsbësch" of the commune of Mamer and the "Bambësch" of the city of Luxembourg as well as Kopstal communal forest, forms one of the largest interconnected wooded areas in the whole of Luxembourg. Without ever leaving the woods, you can walk as far as Mersch, 20 km north of Strassen. Strassen communal forest alone offers 21 km of hiking trails and 16 km of bridleways. You can pick up a brochure from the commune containing information and a map of these bridleways and hiking trails. There are also information boards pointing the way to the fitness and nature trails.

Benches invite you to rest and enjoy your natural surroundings. The chalet "Beim Fräiheetsbam" offers a fantastic setting for the entire commune to meet up, as it does frequently for a great variety of festivities. Look out for the announcements; the next occasion is bound to be some time soon.

Cycle paths

The network of cycle paths in Strassen is not yet complete, though it is being expanded all the time. The network throughout the Grand Duchy is already vast. The goal is to be able to offer a stretch of 900 km in total. 600 km of this was completed in June 2007. In the Town Hall you will find a free information brochure by the Lëtzebuerger Vëlos initiative with a map of these paths. Further information can be found on the website **www.lvi.lu**.

Beach volleyball

The commune's beach volleyball courts can be found on **Rue du Cimetière**. They are managed by the local volleyball club (VCS). Recreational teams or private individuals who would like to use the courts should contact the volleyball club. The club will be able to tell you when you can play and on what terms.

Skateboard ramp

Alongside the beach volleyball courts, you will also find a public skateboard park. Ramps and a small halfpipe invite both beginners and experts to try out new tricks or show off their skills. Anyone who uses this park does so entirely at their own risk.

Playgrounds

There are more than 10 different children's playgrounds within the bounds of the commune of Strassen. The Town Hall can provide you with a street map of the commune with all the playgrounds as well as the sports fields, the skateboard park, the beach volleyball courts and much more besides all marked on it.



7.4. Club Senior

The Paul Barblé cultural centre is home to the office of Club Senior. This club is part of a nationwide organisation and is open to all citizens of the commune aged 50 and above. It offers a huge variety of leisure activities, information events, excursions and sports activities. Club Senior publishes regular brochures with all the relevant details. If you have any questions, just call **263 155-48**. Club Senior requires no membership and no annual contribution either. Citizens of the commune aged 50 and older can take advantage of any of the offerings.



7.5. Community life

Community life plays a huge role in our commune. Strassen has a rich array of clubs and associations.

Take a look at the following list; there is bound to be something that appeals to you. Whatever your choice, you are sure to fit in straightaway and make new friends. For every club and association, you will find a website or a contact telephone number.

The commune will also be happy to print out a comprehensive list for you or to provide you with a contact. Just get in touch with **Ms Luiza Sosna (tel. 310 262-270)** from the Agency for Integration.



Club / Association	Information
Amicale des Sapeurs Pompiers Bertrange-Strassen A.s.b.l.	Friends of the volunteer fire brigade of Bertrange/Strassen
Amicale Strassen	Local heritage society www.strassen.lu/sport- et-loisirs/associations- locales
Amiperas Strassen	Association for senior citizens www.strassen.lu/sportet-loisirs/associations-locales
Association des Parents d'Élèves de la commune de Strassen (A.P.E.E.P.)	Parents' association www.strassen.lu/sport- et-loisirs/associations- locales
Biker.lu	Cycling / mountain bike club www.biker.lu

Club / Association	Information
Cercle d'Education Physique Strassen (C.E.P.)	Gymnastics club
Sildsself (C.L.i.)	www.strassen.lu/sport- et-loisirs/associations- locales
Cercle Philatélique Strassen (C.P.S)	Stamp collecting club
(C.1.3)	www.strassen.lu/sport- et-loisirs/associations- locales
Chorale Ste Cécile Strassen	Choir
	http:// homepages.internet.lu/ choralestr/
Coin de Terre et du Foyer - Strassen	Home and garden association
	www.strassen.lu/sport- et-loisirs/associations locales
Croix Rouge Section Strassen	Red Cross – Strassen section
	www.strassen.lu/sport- et-loisirs/associations locales

Club / Association	Information
DT 77 Strassen Dësch Tennis	Table tennis club
Stroossen	www.fltt.lu
Fanfare Stroossen	Music association
	www.fltt.lu
FC Una Football Club Strassen	Football club
	www.fcuna-strassen.lu
Footing Ronnen Dësch	Hiking club
	www.strassen.lu/sport- et-loisirs/associations- locales
Guillaume Tell Strassen (Tir-à-Arc Strassen)	International women's association
	www.strassen.lu/sport- et-loisirs/associations- locales
Foyer de la Femme Section Strassen	Archery club
	www.gt-s.lu

Club / Association	Information
Hackerspace	Computer and Internet club
	www.hackerspace.lu
Handball Strassen	Handball club
	www.strassen.lu/sport- et-loisirs/associations-lo- cales
Karate Club Strassen	Kaate club
	www.karate-strassen. tripod.com
Kiewerlecken -	Scouts
FNEL Scouten a Guiden	www.kiewerlecken.lu
No Speed Limit	Running and Nordic Walking club
	www.nospeedlimit.lu
RCTMC Strassen (Radio Commanded Truckmodel Club)	Radio-commanded truck model club
	www.rctmc-strassen.lu

Club / Association	Information
Soulbikers	Cycling / mountain bike club
	www.soulbikers.lu
Staudivers	Diving club
	www.staudivers.lu
Touring Equestre	Horse riding club
	www.hippoline.lu/ 1997/touringequestre 97.html
Volleyball Club Strassen	Volleyball club
	www.vcs.lu

If you are looking for a particular sport you enjoy that is not offered by any of the clubs in Strassen, regardless of whether you are interested in engaging in it competitively or as a leisure activity, the "Calendrier du sport-loisir" may be of help to you. This brochure is published every September by the Ministry of Sport and contains an events calendar as well as a list of communes in the Grand Duchy with details of the leisure pursuits they organise, their sports associations, their sports clubs and all other organisations involved in this field.

8. Appendix

8.1. Websites

www.strassen.lu - the commune's website.

www.acl.lu - the automobile association.

www.cedies.lu – this has information in French for students about the options relating to higher education courses and the state funding and grants available.

www.cnpf.lu – the website of Caisse national des prestations familiales provides details of all family allowances granted by the Luxembourg government.

www.cns.lu – the website of the Luxembourg National Health Fund. The information on this website is available in a choice of German, English or French.

www.editus.lu - the telephone book.

www.elearning.lu – this offers an interactive course in Luxembourgish.

www.guichet.public.lu – "De Guichet" ("Guichet") is an nternet portal, available in German and French, which has been designed to simplify the exchange of information with government agencies by affording quick and user-friendly access to all the information and services of state institutions. This website is provided by the government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

www.impotsdirectspublic.lu – the website of the tax office for the purpose of downloading forms.

www.legilux.public.lu – this contains the "code du travail", or labour code, among other things, as well as a search engine that takes you to the part of the law you are looking for.

www.macommune.lu – Internet portal for taking care of administrative formalities online.

www.ulc.lu - consumer protection and advice.

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Any questions?

We have done our utmost to compile all the information you might need as you begin your life here in Strassen and to help you settle in. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please address your questions to:

Ms Luiza Sosna Tel. 310 262-270 Luiza.sosna@strassen.lu

Once again, we bid you a very warm welcome.