

November, 2018

# City of Stratford 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Newsletter

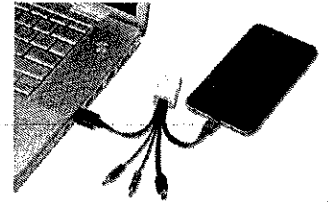
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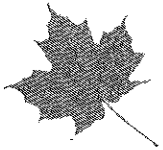
Email: [cityofstratford@globalccs.net](mailto:cityofstratford@globalccs.net) Website: [stratfordiowa.com](http://stratfordiowa.com)

Stop by Stratford City Hall for your electronic charging cables!

City of Stratford utility customers should come up to Stratford City Hall to receive your free *Electronic Charging Cables*.



You can charge multiple electronic devices at one time. Simply plug the cable into the USB port of an ample power source and then into your electronic devices, including smartphones that accommodate the connectors.



## FALL AND WINTER REMINDERS



Fall is here and winter is close behind! The Stratford Public Works Department would like to remind residents not to blow leaves, or other debris into the street. These can potentially cause clogging of the storm sewers which may result in flooding. Rain waters push grass, leaves and other debris that has blown into the street, down the curb line and into the storm drains. Stratford's Code of ordinance is as follows:

**135.03 PLACING DEBRIS ON.** It is *unlawful* for any person to throw or deposit on any street or alley any glass, glass bottle, nails, tacks, wire, cans, trash, garbage, rubbish, litter, offal, *leaves, grass* or any other debris likely to be washed into the storm sewer and clog the storm sewer, or any substance likely to injure any person, animal or vehicle.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321.369)*

Storm drains and storm sewers need to remain clear of grass, leaves, and other debris to allow storm waters to leave your area and drain out through the storm sewer system rather than backing up and causing flooding in your area.

If you have grass clippings and yard debris the city has a *yard waste only* site for the citizens of Stratford. Come up to City Hall and ask for a key to access the City owned debris site. Anyone living within Stratford's city limits may take *yard debris, grass clippings, leaves and small branches no larger than 4 inches in diameter*, to the site.

**Please remember that when SNOW is in the air and on the ground there are a couple of City Ordinances that need your attention.**

1. When removing snow, do not throw, push, place, or cause to be placed the removed snow from private property onto the traveled way of a street or alley. Remember that after a snowfall you need to have your sidewalks cleaned off within 24 hours.
2. To facilitate the City's snow removal efforts, all vehicles must be moved from public streets, alley, or parking areas until all snow for that area has been cleared away.

## FAQ's on Fluoride in the Stratford Municipal Water Supply

*Is Stratford's Water Safe to Drink?* Yes! The notices sent quarterly with the newsletters (and shown below) contain the required wording written by the Iowa Department of Public Health. Community water systems that exceed the fluoride level of 2.0 mg/L (the EPA minimum level) must provide special fluoride public notice to persons served. A recent sample taken from Stratford's water supply contained a fluoride level of 2.47 mg/L.

*Does Stratford Add Fluoride to the Drinking Water?* No. The fluoride in Stratford's water is naturally occurring. This water supply obtains its water from the limestone and dolomite of the Mississippian Aquifer. The aquifer was determined to have low susceptibility to contamination because the characteristics of the aquifer and overlying materials provide natural protection from contaminants at the land surface.

*What is an Unsafe Fluoride Level?* The maximum level set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is 4.0 mg/L. Drinking water containing more than 4.0 mg/L can increase the risk of certain health issues. Stratford's drinking water does not contain unsafe fluoride levels but Stratford is required to notify persons served when a sample exceeds the 2.0 mg/L minimum.

### ~~~~~ IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER ~~~~~

This notice being sent by the Stratford Muni Water Dept. PWSID# 4051002. Elevated Fluoride Levels Detected

Fluoride in children's drinking water at levels of approximately 1 mg/L reduces the number of dental cavities. However, some children exposed to levels of fluoride greater than about 2.0 mg/L may develop dental fluorosis. Dental fluorosis, in its moderate and severe forms, is a brown staining or pitting of the permanent teeth, or both.

Because dental fluorosis occurs only when developing teeth (before they erupt from the gums) are exposed to elevated fluoride levels, households without children are not expected to be affected by this level of fluoride.

Families with children under the age of nine are encouraged to seek other sources of drinking water for their children to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting.

Your water supplier can lower the concentration of fluoride in your water so you will still receive the benefits of cavity prevention while the possibility of stained and pitted teeth is minimized. Removal of fluoride may increase your water costs. Treatment systems are also commercially available for home use. Information on such systems is available at the address given by your public water supplier. Low fluoride bottled drinking water that would meet all standards is also commercially available.

For more information, please call Amanda Westrum of the Stratford Municipal Water Department at 515-838-2311. Some home water treatment units are also available to remove fluoride from drinking water. In Iowa, home water treatment units are regulated under 641—Chapter 14, with the water treatment unit registration program administered by the Iowa Department of Public Health's Environmental Health Division. In addition, you may call the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) International, at 1-877-867-3435. *Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses).*

**Heating assistance for families** - The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is designed to assist low-income families with the cost of home heating. Applications are accepted on a first-come /first-serve basis as posted at your local community action office. The Community Action Agency for Stratford is Upper Des Moines Opportunity. A household may qualify for assistance in this program if its' income falls within a prescribed income range. When you apply, bring proof of income for the last 3 months, including verification of any fixed income such as Social Security benefits and Aid to Families with Dependent Children; a copy of your federal income tax return; and copies of your heating and electric bills. For more information, contact your local community action office located in Webster City, IA, 50595; 515-832-6451 or write to LIHEAP Community Action Department of Human Rights, IA Dept. of Human Rights, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, IA 50319

**NOTICE TO ELECTRIC UTILITY CUSTOMERS** - The Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) is a utility regulatory agency. If you have questions or complaints regarding your utility service, you may contact a utility representative at City of Stratford, 805 Shakespeare Ave., Stratford, IA 50249, 515-838-2311, or email [cityofstratford@globalccs.net](mailto:cityofstratford@globalccs.net). If your complaint is related to service disconnection, safety, or renewable energy, and we do not resolve it, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board: call 877-565-4450 (toll free); or write to 1375 East Court Avenue, Room 69, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069; or email [customer@iub.iowa.gov](mailto:customer@iub.iowa.gov). Low-income customers may also be eligible for free for free legal assistance

### **PROJECT SHARE — Add a "PS" to help a neighbor**

Many of our less fortunate neighbors are worried about keeping their families warm during winter season or cool during the summer season. You can do something to help through **PROJECT SHARE**. Project Share is a plan that helps needy households pay a portion of their energy bills. Add a regular "PS" contribution to your monthly utility payments or make a direct donation. Your contribution is voluntary, flexible, and tax-deductible. To participate, simply call 515-838-2311, stop in at City Hall in Stratford.

# Happening in Stratford!

- **Stratford City Hall** will be closed for the following holidays: Thanksgiving Day, November 22nd and Thanksgiving Friday, November 23rd plus December 25th in observance for Christmas Day and January 1, 2018 for New Year's Day.
- **City has debit or credit card capability now!** Pay your utility bills using all major credit and debit cards (MasterCard, Visa, Discover, and American Express) or pay your utility bills online at <http://stratfordiowa.com/city-government/pay-city-utility-bill/> or in-person at City Hall.
- **Call Iowa One Call** a few days before digging: 800-292-8989 or 811. It's a State of Iowa law and it's free!
- **Electrical Outage Procedures** If experiencing an electrical power outage during City Hall's business hours of 8:00 – 4:30 p.m., call 515-838-2311. When experiencing an electrical power outage after hours at your place of residence, call Maintenance Supervisor, Dan Ostrem at 515-290-6942. If the whole town is experiencing an electrical power outage and Maintenance Staff does not answer, call Hamilton County Dispatch at 515-832-9500; or Midland Power Cooperative's emergency number, 1-800-286-2268. *If all else fails, call 911.*
- **Pets** Every dog or cat over 3 months of age & older needs to have a new pet tag yearly. Pet licenses are issued at City Hall at a cost of \$5.00 per year.
- **Listserve** is a mailing list of email addresses so that public notices may be sent out to multiple recipients at one time. If you are interested email your address to [cityofstratford@globalccs.net](mailto:cityofstratford@globalccs.net). Your email address is **not** shared.
- **Sign up for the 9<sup>th</sup> Ever Turkey Trot Fun Run/Walk** – It will be at 8:30 am on Thanksgiving Day, November 22nd, 2018. Registration forms can be picked up at the Stratford Fitness Center, the Enchanted Mirror Styling Salon, Stratford Telephone and Stratford City Hall or you can request one by e-mail at [stratfordfitnesscenter@globalccs.net](mailto:stratfordfitnesscenter@globalccs.net).
- **Christmas in the Park** – Recycle or donate your unwanted Christmas decoration to light up the City Park on November 24, 2018. You can drop off your donations by November 16<sup>th</sup> at the Stratford Telephone Company.
- **Electronic Sign** – Check out the new electronic sign north of US Bank building. If you would like to get something put on the new sign contact one of the Stratford Spirit 4H members.



**Planning on getting your lifeguard certification?** Classes usually start in early February and fill up very fast, so plan ahead! Call Fuller Hall (515-832-9193) in Webster City, or the Fort Dodge American Red Cross office as soon as possible. You must be at least 15 years old to be a lifeguard before the pool season starts.

The City of Stratford has a **Lifeguard Reimbursement Policy**. This policy will repay lifeguards for their certification or recertification over a two year period. To be eligible for the reimbursement, lifeguards will need to receive their lifeguard certification or recertification, and be able to provide receipt of this cost from a qualified certifier. Lifeguards also need to agree to work for the entire scheduled pool season to receive the first reimbursement of 50% for certification or for recertification costs. Additionally, a lifeguard is required to work for a second entire scheduled pool season to receive the second reimbursement of 50% for certification or for recertification costs..

If you are interested please call the City of Stratford at 515-838-2311 or email us at [cityofstratford2@globalccs.net](mailto:cityofstratford2@globalccs.net) for more details.

# Come Shop Small Stratford November 24, 2018 Shop Small Events



- 9am - Secrets to making a delicious Pie with Janet Sonkson @ The Shakespeare Community Center
- 9am- 2pm – Christmas Photo Booth @ Smoke King Bones
- 9am -2pm – Watch and Learn with Blacksmith Ty Murray Boone Forks Forge @ Vintage Parlor
- 9am -Noon – Kitten Adoption hosted by Hamilton County Animal AdvocATES @ The Family Pharmacy
- 10am – 4pm – Craft a Beautiful Christmas Ornament @ Touch of Rustic
- 10am- Kids Cookie Decorating and Story Time with Mr. C and his Puppet @ the Library
- 11am – Christmas Activity to be announced @ The Shakespeare Community Center
- 1pm – Learn some tips to decorate a beautiful Cake with Megan Davis @ The Shakespeare Community Center

## Visit Our Local Shops and Vendors

- Stratford Food Center
- Touch of Rustic
- Norwex & Color Street Nails @ The Shakespeare Community Center
- JRG Vet Supplies
- AdvocATES and Melinda Oster Décor @ The Family Pharmacy
- Carol's Rock Engraving- Located on Goldsmith
- Smoke King Bones – Featuring Christmas Sweet Treats



## Vintage Parlor Featuring

- Boone Forks Forge
- Shay's Country Creations
- Knitting & Bullock Woodworking
- Infinity Officiants & Positive Energy
- Pam's Farmhouse Furniture & more



Stratford  
Promotions Committee



## Stratford Community Development Corporation 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Update!

Can't believe that it's fourth quarter already. November is always a busy month for the SCDC board. We are closing out another year, and looking forward to starting 2019.

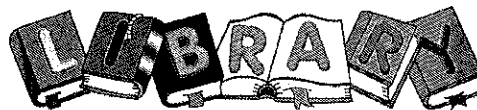
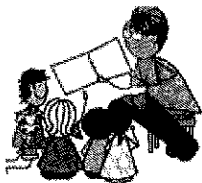
Every year on the first Sunday in November, SCDC holds their annual Community Dinner. When this tradition was started three years ago less than fifty people attended. This year the turnout was the highest yet. We served around one hundred and twenty-five people at The Shakespeare Community Center. Thank you to everyone that attended and thank you to all who contributed to the free will donation and pie auction. One very special pie sold for \$75.00! Ten pies in total were auctioned off on Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Thank you all for coming and supporting the on-going efforts of our committee.

*Thank you!*

January 19, 2019, SCDC will hold their annual meeting. Lions club will serve their famous and delicious Pancakes before the meeting, which will begin at 12:30 pm. This year, we will be celebrating some volunteers of our community and their projects. If you would like to nominate a community volunteer or project please contact an SCDC board member. We also have one current open position on our board. If you or anyone you know would like to serve on the board, or volunteer for any on- going projects please let us know.

Current Board members - Gracie Lambert, Dirk Westrum, Penny Osborn, Rich Francis, Steven Andersen, Carri Eide, Amy Link, and Monika Arends

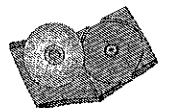
For questions and comments Please call Monika Arends 515-450-6583 or [stratfordscdc@gmail.com](mailto:stratfordscdc@gmail.com)



The City of Stratford library continues to offer the citizens of Stratford and the surrounding areas exceptional services. Stop in and check out our new books, movies, and magazines. The Stratford Library is now offering eBooks, stop in and the librarian will help you get started.

Your local library is offering new incredible programs for you to attend. November 24, 2018 the library will be having a story time for the kiddos. Mr. Culberson and Toby will be reading a holiday book with a craft to go along with it. December 5, 2018 the library will host a jewelry class from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. There is limited participation, so come in or call to sign up. Watch the library website for more exciting classes to coming in the new year.

Thanks for supporting your local library!



# City of Stratford

805 Shakespeare Avenue  
Stratford, IA 50249-0218  
Phone: 515-838-2311  
cityofstratford@globalccs.net  
Hours M – F 8 am – 4:30 pm

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STRATFORD, IA  
PERMIT #15

## **GARBAGE AND RECYCLING INFORMATION**

On January 1, 2018 there will be an increase in the garbage rate for residential garbage collection. The increase will be for garbage and recycling picked up in January and will appear on the February 1, 2019, utility bills. The increase is going up \$0.49 per residential service from \$20.39 to \$20.88. Landfill charges will remain the same at \$2.05 per garbage container. This is due to an annual of 2.5% increase in the sanitation services agreement between the City of Stratford and Waste Management. This is the second year of the five year sanitation contract with Waste Management.

Garbage and recycling needs to be out at the curbside by 7:00 a.m. on garbage pickup morning. Garbage pickup morning will be Thursdays, unless a major holiday falls in the week, then it's usually a Friday pickup. City Hall will post if it's a Thursday or a Friday pickup. Please feel free to call City Hall or email us if you are wondering which day.

*Remember when garbage day is over you need to take your garbage and recycling containers off the street and off the city right of way and put them back on your personal property to avoid damage or lost containers. Close to your house is best.*

Recycling is important; the more you recycle the less garbage that goes to the landfill. And that will hopefully keep landfill charges from going up. Landfill costs affect your garbage service costs. What can or cannot be recycled? Download the list off of the government tab on the city's website [stratfordiowa.com](http://stratfordiowa.com), or come to City hall to get one.

If you have any questions, please give City Hall a call at 515-838-2311; look us up on the city website at [stratfordiowa.com](http://stratfordiowa.com) or email us at [cityofstratford@globalccs.net](mailto:cityofstratford@globalccs.net).