

# City of Stratford Newsletter

Fall 2023



## **Contact**

Stratford City Hall

805 Shakespeare Ave, PO Box 218

Stratford, IA 50249

Phone: 515-838-2311 Fax: 515-838-2315

Email: [cityofstratford@globalccs.net](mailto:cityofstratford@globalccs.net)

Website: [stratfordiowa.com](http://stratfordiowa.com)

## **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 CUSTOMER**

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 legal assistance from Iowa Legal Aid, and may contact Legal Aid at 1-800-532-1275.

## 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.

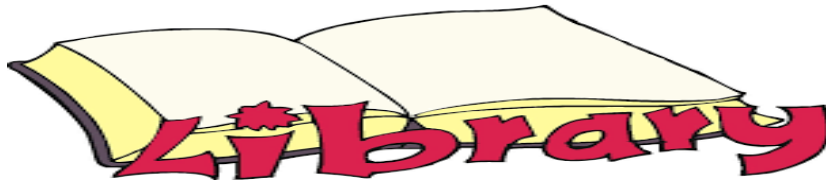
Your water supplier can lower the concentration of fluoride in your water so you will still receive the benefits of cavity prevention while the possibility of stained and pitted teeth is minimized. Removal of fluoride may increase your water costs. Treatment systems are also commercially available for 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 contact Stratford City Hall 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).*

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

Many of our less fortunate neighbors are worried about keeping their families warm during the winter 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 or stop in at City Hall in Stratford.

**Skip the late fees & never miss a payment again! Sign up for automatic withdrawal from your bank account to pay your utility bill by contacting City Hall at 515-838-2311.**



While we love seeing your kids in the library, here is a reminder of the official policy on unattended children:

*Children who are left unattended at the library can be a cause of concern to the library. Issues of safety, liability, and responsibility motivate the library to address this potentially serious problem. Young children are expected to be accompanied and supervised by a responsible person. Parents are discouraged from leaving their child at the library when out of town in case of accident. Library employees are not responsible for children left unattended at the library.*

#### **Upcoming events:**



Cookie Walk: December 9 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. The library will have Christmas music playing outside during the holiday season to provide a festive atmosphere to our main street. The library will be closed Nov 23 and 24, Dec 25 and 26, Jan 1.

#### **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 a 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 contact City of Stratford at 515-838-2311 or email us at [cityofstratford@globalccs.net](mailto:cityofstratford@globalccs.net) for more details.



## **TIDBITS OF INFORMATION**

- **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 Brad Larson 641-373-7676. If the whole town is experiencing an electrical power outage and Maintenance Staff doesn't 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.
- **City Website** Check out the City of Stratford's website where you can subscribe to alerts and public notices at [stratfordiowa.com](http://stratfordiowa.com)!
- **City Council Members** are Carol Bergman, Catherine Bergman, Terry Bryan, HT Buie, Jamie Nielsen, and Mayor Brian Ouverson. Council meetings are held the second Monday of every month at City Hall at 7:00 p.m.
- **City Hall will be closed** on Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> in observation of Thanksgiving Day, and Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, the day after Thanksgiving; Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> in observation of Christmas; Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> in observation of New Years; & Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, in observation of President's Day.
- **Tour of Homes** will be on December 9<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 6:00 P.M.



**\*\*RECYCLE SYMBOL  
INDICATES RECYCLING WILL  
BE PICKED UP THAT DAY –  
PLEASE NOTE THAT FRIDAY  
PICK UPS INDICATE A  
HOLIDAY WEEK**

# 2024

## January

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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28	29	30	31			

## February

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31						

## April

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28	29	30				

## May

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## June

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30						

## July

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## August

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## September

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29	30					

## October

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## November

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## December

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



# FALL AND WINTER REMINDERS



Fall is here and winter is not far 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 have 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.

**Remember when SNOW is in the air & on the ground there are 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.

Hi Everyone! My name is Cathy Siefken and I am the new Deputy City Clerk for the City of Stratford! I am very excited to be working for the City and look forward to meeting you. I live just north of Kamrar, IA with my husband Todd and our son Wyatt. Todd works for the Iowa Department of Transportation in Ames and Wyatt is in his second year of college at Ellsworth Community College in Iowa Falls. We enjoy working on our home, traveling and spoiling our two dogs Oreo and Buttercup. Please stop by City Hall and say "Hi!"

## 2022-2023 IOWA HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

### WHEN TO APPLY:

- Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled:  
October 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023
- All other households:  
November 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023

### WHAT TO TAKE:

- **Proof of Income** (for all household members age 18 and over) Depending upon your household income type, income documentation from the past 30 days, the last 12 months, or last calendar year, whichever is easier or more beneficial for you.
- **Proof of Social Security Numbers for all household members** (documentation required)
- **Most recent heat bill**
- **Most recent electric bill**

### WAGE EARNERS:

Please bring copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

### FIXED INCOME:

This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please bring copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.

### SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS:

Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified. Additional income not listed here may be required.

# City of Stratford

805 Shakespeare Avenue  
Stratford, IA 50249-0218  
Phone: 515-838-2311  
cityofstratford@globalccs.net  
Hours M – F 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

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STRATFORD, IA  
PERMIT #15

## Garbage and Recycling Information

On January 1, 2024 there will be an increase in the garbage rate for garbage collection. The increase will be for garbage and recycling picked up in January and will appear on the February 1, 2024, utility bills. The increase is going up \$0.52 per residential service from \$21.42 to \$22.13. Landfill charges will remain the same at \$2.05 per garbage container. This is due to an annual of 3.5% increase in the sanitation services agreement. Commercial customers will be receiving a letter outlining the 3.5% annual increase in the sanitation service agreement. This is the second year of the sanitation contract with The Trash Man.

Garbage and recycling need 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. Recycling is every other Thursday. City Hall will post if it's a Thursday or a Friday pickup in the event of a Holiday. 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 have your garbage and recycling containers off the street and out of the city right of way and put them back on your personal property to avoid damaged or lost containers. Close to your house is best.***

If you have any questions or concerns, 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).

