

City of Stratford Newsletter

February 2025



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

Website: stratfordiowa.com

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.

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. 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. 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).*

## **TIDBITS OF INFORMATION**

- **Remember to recycle!** There are items that must not be put into a recycling bin. Your recycling will not be picked up if a “no-no” is in your recycling bin. City Hall has a list of items that can and cannot be recycled. This list can also be found on the stratfordiowa.com website under the City Government tab – utilities & forms.
- **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 at 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.
- **Call Iowa One Call** a few days before digging: 800-292-8989 or 811. It's free and it's a State of Iowa law.
- **City Website** Check out the City of Stratford's website where you can subscribe to alerts and public notices!
- **City Council Members** are Terry Bryan, Catherine Bergman, Carol Bergman, Clark Conklin, Chase Haman, and Mayor Brian Ouverson. Council meetings are held the second Monday of every month at City Hall at 7:00 p.m.
- **City has debit or credit card capability!** Pay your utility bills using all major credit and debit cards or pay your utility bills online at <http://stratfordiowa.com/city-government/pay-city-utility-bill/> or in-person at City Hall. There is a service charge of 2.65% or \$1.00; whichever is greater.
- **Find out what IS inefficient** in your home by borrowing the City's Kill A Watt EZ. This is an electricity usage monitor that will show how many kilowatts an appliance can use.
- **City wide garage sale day** is tentatively set for April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Start cleaning out those closets and make plans early to participate!
- **Spring Clean-up Day** is set for May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. Have your junk curb side by 7:00 a.m. For large items, please contact City Hall to see if those items have a pick-up cost. An item with a pick-up cost will need a sticker attached to it.
- **Want to be a lifeguard** contact Fort Dodge Rec, Ames Rec, or other area classes. They fill up fast and usually start in February for the summer season. Contact City Hall with questions.

## **Winter City Ordinance Reminders**

**69.11 SNOW REMOVAL.** No person shall park, abandon or leave unattended any vehicle on any public street, alley, or City-owned off-street parking area during snow removal operations unless the snow has been removed or plowed from said street, alley or parking area and the snow has ceased to fall.

*(Code of Iowa, 321.236[1])*

**135.12 DUMPING OF SNOW.** It is unlawful for any person to throw, push, or place or cause to be thrown, pushed or placed, an y ice or snow from private property, sidewalks, or driveways onto the traveled way of a street or alley so as to obstruct gutters, or impede the passage of vehicles upon the street or alley or to create a hazardous condition therein; except where, in the cleaning of large commercial drives in the business district it is absolutely necessary to move the snow onto the street or alley temporarily, such accumulation shall be removed promptly by the property owner or agent. Arrangements for the prompt removal of such accumulations shall be made prior to moving the snow.

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12 [2])*

**136.03 REMOVAL OF SNOW, ICE AND ACCUMULATIONS.** It is the responsibility of the abutting property owners to remove snow, ice and accumulations promptly from sidewalks. If a property owner does not remove snow, ice or accumulations **within 24 hours**, the City may do so and assess the costs against the property owner for collection in the same manner as a property tax. *(Ord. 2019-01 – Feb.19 Supp.)*

*(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12[2b & e])*

# SUPPORT SFC



## Stratford Community Grocery

### Dear Valued Customers,

We would like to thank you for your continued support of the Stratford Food Center. The fundraising efforts have been greatly appreciated over the years.

We realize our shelves have been bare lately. In order to afford the quantities and varieties of products you desire, our foot traffic in the door ***HAS TO INCREASE*** in order to pay for the trucks to continue to keep the shelves stocked. We continue to work with the Dayton to share costs and products in ordering. Despite all the continued efforts, the challenges continue.

While we can't thank our consistent, loyal customers enough, those sales only go so far. Normal monthly expenses like insurance, utilities, taxes and wages also take a bite out of the income that does come in. We are in the most difficult time of year, with January through March having poorer sales.

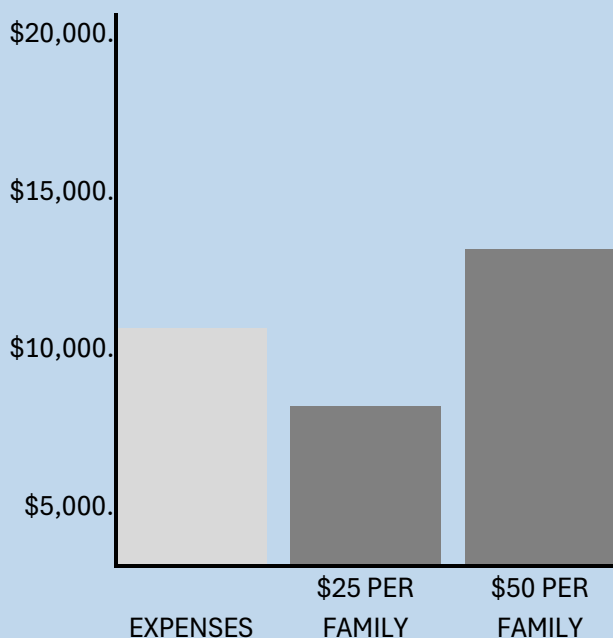
***At this point, we are looking at needing increased sales from all of you to improve and stay improved or we will need to close our doors.***

As a community, having a grocery store among other amenities is a strength to the community and our tax bases. It is in all of our best interests to keep our store open. Please come in and shop with us and continue to spend \$25-\$50 or more each week. This amount from EVERYONE would allow the store to not only survive, but would likely thrive.

We understand many of you are working out of town, and can easily shop elsewhere. We are requesting that you rethink some of your options. Our prices are often competitive with these other stores. It is our goal to keep the store open. But continually losing customers to the competition will close our doors.

Our goal is to be as honest with our community as possible. This is our reality. Thank you for all your continued support.

*Stratford Food Center  
Board of Directors*



There are 575 households in Stratford and rural Stratford. If even 275 households contributed or purchased \$25-\$50 worth of groceries a week, it would ensure our doors stay open.



### *March and April Events at the Library*

**March 20<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm = Stenciled Towel Class**

**March 21<sup>st</sup> 3:15 – 4:15 pm = American Girl Club  
(you much sign up ahead of time, limit of 10 kids)**

**March 25<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am = Book Discussion**

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1:00- 2:00 pm = Kid's Cooking Corner**

**April 10<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> = Story on a Stick**

**April 17<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm = Embroidery Hoop Wreath Class**

**April 25<sup>th</sup> – May 3<sup>rd</sup> = Book Sales**

**April 29<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am = Book Discussion**



# 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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## **APPLY NOW FOR 2025 STRATFORD POOL POSITIONS**



The City of Stratford is accepting applications until **April 18, 2025** for pool management and staff positions for the 2025 pool season. The City has a lifeguard certification reimbursement policy. The policy will reimburse for lifeguard certification over a period of two years if the lifeguard has met all the requirements.

**Assistant Manager and/or Head Lifeguard** — Current lifeguard certification, CPR, first aid, and water safety instructor. Previous lifeguard experience is a must. Assist in supervising overall operation of pool staff. Ideal candidate to have previous experience in pool management, staff direction, and proven customer service skills.

**Lifeguard** — Current lifeguard certification, CPR, and first aid required. Previous lifeguard experience preferred; but not required. Additional duties as assigned by pool management staff could include, but not limited to cashiering, cleaning, and maintenance.

**Office Attendant** — Good math and customer service skills. Prefer cashiering and money handling experience.

Partial swimsuit reimbursement may be available for lifeguard suit requirements. Wages are dependent upon experience; flexible working hours required; all positions are seasonal, non-benefited, and no minimum guarantee of hours. The City of Stratford is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Call City Hall at 515-838-2311 or email [cityofstratford@globalccs.net](mailto:cityofstratford@globalccs.net) if you have any questions.

**Swimming Lessons will be offered again this year. More information will be available in the upcoming months!**

**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.**