

City of Stratford Newsletter

Summer 2025



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](tel:515-838-2311).

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

The city has a yard debris pile for your leaves and lawn debris. The city allows sticks and tree limbs in diameter of 4 inches or less. Blowing leaves, grass clipping or any other debris into the street can cause clogging of the storm sewers and result in flooding. Please do not mow or blow into street.

City Hall has a key to access the debris site.



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).*



The 2025 pool season will come to an end late August.

Exact closing date to is August 17, 2025.

The City of Stratford thanks you for your patronage!

Families and folks of all ages from Stratford and surrounding communities have made this pool season an enjoyable one so far. Our swim lesson program was held the dates of June 23rd thru June 27th. There were 10 children who participated in this program, ranging in all skill levels. The class was smaller due to the lifeguard shortage. There were also several private lessons. Kids have also really enjoyed the concession stand; swimming burns up a lot of energy!

If you are interested or you know someone that is interested in being a lifeguard next year, call Fuller Hall (515-832-9193) in Webster City as soon as possible. The lifeguard classes usually start in February and fill up very fast, so plan ahead!

The City of Stratford would like to thank all the patrons that have come out and supported the pool this year. We would also like to give a special thanks to all of the lifeguards who stepped up to help make sure we could keep the pool running this season! If you would like more information about the Stratford Municipal Pool, you can look us up on the City's website at stratfordiowa.com, look us up on Facebook at Stratford Municipal Pool, call City Hall at 515-838-2311 between 8:00 am – 4:30 pm or stop by the pool from 1:00 pm – 8:00 pm during pool season.

If you have any suggestions to help make our pool better, please do not hesitate to reach out to City Hall at 515-838-2311.

See you at the Stratford Swimming Pool!

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



Fall Arts and Crafts Classes have been scheduled

- Friday, August 29th at 1:00 pm and 5 pm will be Pumpkin Punch Needle.
- Saturday and Sunday Oct 18 & 19 Ironing Board Painting (We are sorry, this class is already full.)
- Friday, November 7 at 1:00 pm Needle Felting taught by Martha Kent.

Cost per August and November class is \$5, due upon registration. Call or come into the library to register. Class fees are non-refundable, but can be transferred to someone else.


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.

Introducing the Stratford Community Garden — Coming Spring 2026!

We're thrilled to announce the launch of a brand-new **community garden**, opening in **Spring 2026**! This shared green space will be a place where neighbors come together to grow fresh produce, connect with nature, and build a stronger, more vibrant community.

Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting out, there will be **plots for planting, opportunities to learn**, and events for all ages. Our mission is to cultivate more than just fruits and vegetables — we're growing friendships, sustainability, and pride in our neighborhood.

Join us as we sow the seeds for a greener, healthier, and more connected future. 

Stay tuned for plot sign-ups, volunteer days, and workshops — and let's grow something beautiful together!

Just a reminder that there is a new ordinance, Ordinance 2025-02 that charges **\$50.00** to place a door notice for non-payment of your utilities. If the account is disconnected a fee of **\$50.00** plus a **\$20.00** trip fee will be assessed to delinquent or disconnected account. If the account is re-connected a fee of **\$75.00** plus **\$20.00** trip fee will be assessed during regular business hours or working hours and **\$100** after regular business hours. No fee shall be charged for the usual or customary trips in the regular changes in occupancies of property. Please make sure if you cannot make payment on the date due that you contact the Clerk office to make a payment arrangement to avoid these charges.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4th, 2025

The City Council has three Council positions and Mayor available on the November 4th ballot.

The City of Stratford will be holding a municipal election this November. Now is the time to start planning for the election. One of the most challenging and exciting responsibilities an individual can assume is to become a mayor or council member. The business of city government and local leadership presents a unique opportunity to resolve issues, accomplish goals, and affect the future of your community.

Mayor and council seats serve a four-year term. The people elected will begin serving as of January 1, 2027. The City of Stratford conducts business on the second Monday of each month. The meetings are held at 7:00 pm, with additional work sessions anticipated during budget season (December - March) and special meetings when necessary. Regular meetings last on average two hours.

Candidates must be eligible electors of the City of Stratford, meeting the same qualifications required to vote and be a resident of the city he or she plans to serve. This means that you must live within the Stratford city limits, be a US citizen, be of legal voting age, and not have been convicted of a felony or other infamous crime for which your rights have not been restored by the governor or by the president of the United States.

Nomination papers may be picked up at either the City Clerk's office from the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's Office:

<http://www.sos.stateia.us/elections/electioninfo/CityElections.html>.

Nominees must obtain ten eligible signatures. Candidate filing for council positions begins on Monday, August 25th and ends with papers due at the City Clerk's office by 5:00 PM on Thursday, September 18th, 2025. Nomination papers are to be turned into the City Clerk's Office.

City of Stratford

805 Shakespeare Avenue
Stratford, IA 50249-0218
Phone: 515-38-2311
cityofstratford@globalccs.net
Hours M – F 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

PRSORT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
STRATFORD, IA
PERMIT #15



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*