

# City of Stratford Newsletter

Fall 2024



## **Contact**

Stratford City Hall

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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).*

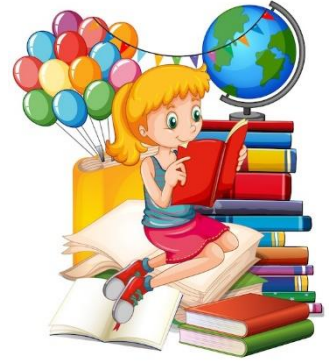
### **PROJECT SHARE — Add a "PS" to help a neighbor**

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.**

### Upcoming events at the library:

- November 13: 1-2 pm Kid's Cooking Club  
(you must sign up ahead of time for this, limit of 10 kids)
- November 28 and 29: Library closed
- December 4: 11 am Book Discussion (will be held at The Bakin Diner)
- December 6: 3:15-4:15 pm American Girl Club  
(you must sign up ahead of time for this, limit of 10 kids)
- December 24 and 25: Library closed
- December 31: Library open 1-4 pm
- January 1: Library closed



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### **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.



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## 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, Chase Haman, Clark Conklin, 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 28<sup>th</sup> in observation of Thanksgiving Day, and Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, the day after Thanksgiving; Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> in observation of Christmas; Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> in observation of New Years; & Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, in observation of President's Day.
- **Stratford Food Center** will be giving out free lunches to Veterans on November 11, 2024 Veteran's Day
- **Fire and Rescue Department Ribeye Dinner** will be on November 27, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. If you can't make call and reserve your meal.





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

# 2025

## January

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## September

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## October

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## November

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## December

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# 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.

## Notice of Service Line Material

The City of Stratford is focused on protecting the health of every household in our community. This notice contains important information about your drinking water service line. Your water service line is the line from your home that connects to the city's water main. The DNR (Department of Resources) is requiring all community public water supply to do an inventory of all water service lines within their perspective community. The reason for this is to find out if there are any water service lines that are made from galvanized pipe, or lead material. The City of Stratford has been diligently doing visual inspections all summer to find out what material every home in our community has for their water service line so that we can report that to the DNR. People living in homes with a lead service line may have an increased risk of exposure to lead from their drinking water.

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or worsen existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these negative health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney, or nervous system problems.

Below are recommended actions that you may take, separately or in combination, if you are concerned about lead in your drinking water. The list also includes where you may find more information and is not intended to be a complete list or to imply that all actions equally reduce lead in drinking water.

**Use your filter properly.** Using a filter can reduce lead in drinking water. If you use a filter, it should be certified to remove lead. Read any directions provided with the filter to learn how to properly install, maintain, and use your cartridge and when to replace it. Using the cartridge after it has expired can make it less effective at removing lead. Do not run hot water through the filter. For more information on facts and advice on home water filtration systems, visit EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/consumer-tool-identifying-point-use-and-pitcher-filters-certified-reduce-lead>.

**Clean your aerator.** Regularly remove and clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator). Sediment, debris, and lead particles can collect in your aerator. If lead particles are caught in the aerator, lead can get into your water.

**Use cold water.** Do not use hot water from the tap for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula as lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.

**Have your water tested.** Contact us, your water utility, at City of Stratford 515-838-2311 or email [cityofstratford@globalccs.net](mailto:cityofstratford@globalccs.net) to have your water tested and to learn more about the lead levels in your drinking water. Alternatively, you may contact a certified laboratory to have your water tested for lead. Note, a water sample may not adequately capture or represent all sources of lead that may be present. For information on sources of lead that include service lines and interior plumbing, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water#getinto>.

# 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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PAID  
STRATFORD, IA  
PERMIT #15

## Garbage and Recycling Information

On January 1, 2025 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, 2025, utility bills. The increase is going up \$0.74 per residential service from \$22.13 to \$22.87. 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 third 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).

