

VILLAGE OF STRATFORD

October 2008

NEWSLETTER

General Election is November 4th! Are You Ready to Vote?

All voters in the State of Wisconsin must be registered on or before election day in order to vote. If you have voted in the Village of Stratford in the past four years and reside at the same address, your voter registration status is current. If you are unsure if you are registered or if your registration information is correct, you may contact the Clerk's Office at 687-4166 during normal business hours, Mon—Fri, 8:00 am—4:30 pm, or by emailing Clerk June Krueger at stratfordclerk@fibernetcc.com.

If you are not currently registered to vote, REGISTER NOW to avoid waiting in line to register on November 4th. A Voter Registration Application (EB-131) can be completed at the Clerk's Office during business hours. If you have a current and valid Wisconsin Driver License, you will need to provide your Driver License number. (Those without a driver license will need to register by providing the last four digits of your Social Security Number.) Proof that you are a Village of Stratford resident is required to complete your voter registration record.

You may also register by mail until October 15th. Visit the State's Government Accountability Board website at: <http://elections.state.wi.us>. Download and complete the EB-131 form, include a copy of your proof of residency (explained on the form), and submit it no later than October 15th to Clerk Krueger at the address on the reverse of this Newsletter. If you wait to register on election day, you will be required to provide proof of residency before being allowed to cast your ballot.

Not all voters can get to the polling place on election day. An absentee ballot is the actual printed ballot marked by the voter in advance, sealed in a special envelope, and given or mailed to the municipal clerk. The absentee ballots are then presented to the election inspectors on election day for validation and tabulation at the polling place.

Any qualified and registered voter may request an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots must be marked in the presence of a witness who is an adult U.S. citizen. The witness need not and should not see how you voted, *only that you voted*. An absentee ballot may be marked and sealed in the Clerk's Office or you can request the ballot to be mailed to the voter. An Application for Absentee Ballot (EB-121) is available on the GAB's website referenced above.

Voting by absentee ballot is one option for college students temporarily residing away from home. A college student may otherwise register and vote in their university's district.

The Stratford Community Hall is handicapped accessible; an electronic voter-assist terminal is available. Village residents who are indefinitely confined and wish to register or to vote by absentee ballot may contact Clerk Krueger at 687-4166 for help with completing the necessary forms.

Local municipal clerks and trained election inspectors are entrusted with the responsibility of protecting the integrity of elections and to ensure public confidence in the election process.

—Kevin Kennedy, Director
Government Accountability Board



Cast your vote and get a FREE energy saving light bulb! The first 200 Stratford voters will receive one free compact fluorescent light bulb and information on their energy saving values. The CFL's are provided through a grant administered by UW-Stevens Point to benefit selected locations in Marathon and Portage Counties.



GENERAL ELECTION

November 4, 2008
7:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.

Stratford Community Hall
300 East Larch Street



YOU MAY VOTE IF:

- ⇒ You are a United States Citizen;
- ⇒ You are 18 years old or older on election day;
- ⇒ You have lived here for 10 days before the election;
- ⇒ You are registered to vote; and
- ⇒ You have not been disqualified from voting for statutory reasons.



Trick or Treat Hours

Friday, October 31, 2008
5:30—7:30 p.m.

Parents should be sure that their children are able to see properly from their costumes, that they cross streets only at intersections, and that they do not run between cars. Trick-or-treaters should carry a flashlight and stop only at homes with outside lights on. Don't allow children to eat treats until a parent or trusted adult has checked them.

Let's have a safe and fun Halloween!

Compost Site & Yard Waste Collection

The Village's Compost Site will be open only two more days in October:
Monday, Oct. 6 5:00—7:00 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 11 ... 9:00 a.m.—Noon

The Village crew will collect tree brush and branches, grass clippings, leaves, and garden materials placed curbside on the following dates:

October 20, 21, 27, 28
November 3, 4

All tree brush and branches must be bundled, not larger than 2 feet in diameter by 8 feet in length, and not heavier than 50 pounds per bundle. Keep thorny brush in separate bundles not longer than 3 feet in length. Other materials must be in clear plastic bags. Do not set brush out earlier than 48 hours before Yard Clean Up dates.

Also keep in mind that you may not rake or place fallen leaves or grass clippings onto the pavement or into the gutter of any public street.

VILLAGE OF STRATFORD

265 North 3rd Avenue, P.O. Box 12
Stratford, WI 54484-0012
www.stratfordwi.com

Clerk / Treasurer 687-4166
Police Dept. (non-emergency) 687-3131
Water & Electric Dept. (billing) ... 687-4166
Water & Electric
and Public Works Shop 687-4118

Choose Your Garbage Cart for 2009

The Village of Stratford contracts for residential collection of garbage and recyclables with Veolia Environmental Services. All homes are required to participate in the garbage and recycling program. Services are billed as a special charge on the annual property tax bill.

All households are required to use the wheeled garbage cart provided by the hauler, but you may choose the size of cart that best fits your needs. Three cart sizes are available as follows:

<u>Cart Size</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Annual Charge</u>
Small	35 gallon	\$ 75.00
Medium	65 gallon	\$ 99.00
Large	95 gallon	\$ 123.00



Village residents also pay \$42.00 per year for recycling collection services. With more diligent recycling efforts, many households were able to save money by reducing the size of their garbage cart.

Anyone wishing to change the size of your garbage cart must make that request by contacting the Village Clerk's Office by October 31st! (687-4166 / stratfordfordclerk@fibernetcc.com) This is the one time each year residents are allowed to make such a change. Keep in mind that weekly garbage must fit inside your cart. Garbage bag stickers will still be available at the Village Clerk's Office (\$1.50 each) for the occasional weeks that you have excess garbage.



REMINDER:

FALL CLEAN UP DAY is OCTOBER 16th!!

Thanks!

Due to a move out of the Village, **Jeremy Schafer** has resigned his position as Village Trustee. During his two years on the board, Schafer served on the Public Works and Board of Review Committees. He will continue as a member of the Ad Hoc Recreational Trail Committee. President Bud Suckow will appoint a replacement trustee at the October board meeting to fulfill Schafer's term through April 2010.

After fifteen years of service as a part-time member of the Public Works Dept., **Clarence Pilgrim** is turning in the lawn mower keys. Thanks to Clarence, the Village parks and other green spaces have been well-maintained. Though he is still planning to help with snow removal, Clarence can now fully enjoy his retirement summers!

Hydrant & Water Main Flushing

The Water Utility crews will be flushing hydrants and water mains from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, **October 20th to 24th**. The process stirs up sediment in the mains. Using water in your home, while the hydrants and mains in your area are being flushed, does not allow the sediment time to settle. To avoid drawing the sediment into your homes' plumbing system, you should delay using water for approximately 1/2 hour when you notice the crew working in your area.

During the flushing process, you may experience very low pressure. You may also notice some temporary air in your lines when turning on a faucet after the crew has completed flushing in your area. Call 687-4118 if you have any questions.