

Grant Funds Available Through Village's Home Rehab Program

The Village of Stratford was awarded a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of approximately \$180,000 by the State of Wisconsin to assist low and moderate-income families in making necessary repairs to their property. The grant period is quickly coming to an end, but there is still money available for interest-free loans.

Any Village home or property owner who is interested in the program may contact Stacy Griswold at MSA Professional Services, Inc., 1-800-552-6330, for additional information. Applications are available from MSA or at the Village's municipal building. MSA manages the program for the Village, providing administrative and inspection services. Qualification is based on household income. All applications must be completed and approved by June 30, 2009 or the remainder of the Village's allowed grant funds will be returned to the state.

A local success story... Cheryl Chapel applied for the program last year. The MSA inspector visited her home to decide what improvements could be completed through the grant program. Chapel's interest-free loan allowed her to replace windows, a door, roofing, gutters, exterior trim, attic insulation, and steps. She is very pleased and happy with the way everything turned out, adding that she wouldn't have been able to make all of the repairs if it weren't for the funding assistance. Chapel stated this is an excellent program! **



Here is how the program works for families who apply and are approved:

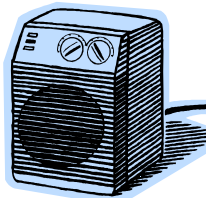
- Homeowners receive a loan at zero percent interest. When the home is sold or is no longer the primary residence, the loan would then be paid back. No monthly payments are required.
- Landlords who rent to tenants that are low to moderate-income may also receive a loan at zero percent interest. However, they are required to make monthly payments over ten years until the loan is repaid.
- Tenants who are looking to purchase a home can apply for a loan at zero percent interest to assist with down payment and closing costs. There may also be funds available to make repairs to the home that you purchase.

The Village is looking for potential rehab sites because all of the money that is lent to low to moderate-income residents is returned to the village when the loans are paid back. Loans repaid to the village will then be available for use by other qualified residents.

Stratford needs more applications approved by June 30, 2009. If you are interested in the program, please call Stacy Griswold at 1-800-552-6330 before time runs out.

*** The housing grant program is administered on a confidential basis. Ms. Chapel agreed to forego her anonymity, sharing her success story to further promote the local grant program.*

Something to think about from...



PORTABLE HEATERS — There has been a lot of discussion about the use of portable infrared heaters as a way to reduce your heating bill. It is important to know that while you may realize savings by turning your thermostat down and keeping most of your home quite cool, you will incur additional electricity costs. For example, a 1500-watt heater, run continuously for one month, will add approximately \$70 to your utility bill.

Major Projects Approved for '09

Each year, the Village Board tries to include a major project or two in the budget to keep up with street and public works maintenance. Projects completed in 2008 included the extension of West Meadow Street and paving of Parkview Drive in the industrial park, reconstruction of South Street, and equipment and facilities upgrades at the wastewater treatment plant.

The 2009 budget includes a new roof at the Village Garage, and an estimated \$100,000 to pave Sturm Road and Indy Lane.

Dog License Reminder

State law requires that all dogs are licensed. Village of Stratford residents should obtain Dog Licenses at the Municipal Building during regular business hours on or before March 31st each year. Proof of rabies vaccination must be provided in order to purchase the dog license.

Fees are as follows:

Adult male or female \$10.00
 Neutered or spayed \$ 5.00
 (Puppy licenses also available.)

A \$10.00 penalty is applied after March 31st. Contact Roseann Johnson at 687-4166 if you have questions about licensing your pet.

Trail System Update

The Village's Recreational Trail System Ad Hoc Committee is busy preparing for fundraising efforts to help our local trail system get out of the starting block! Contact any of the following committee members if you have questions about the proposed trail or would like to become a "Friend of the Trail".

Committee Chair—Jeremy Schafer
 Trustee—Tom Bornbach
 Members — Diane Austin, June Krueger, Duane & Lynette Pupp, Alan Rock, John Southworth, and Scott Winch.

Is Your Street Light Out?

If you notice a street light out, you can report it by leaving a message at the Village's Public Works Shop, 687-4118. Provide your name and address and a location of the street light needing service. *Thanks!*

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

How is Your Tax Dollar Spent?

When you write your property tax check to the Village of Stratford, only some of the money stays with your local government. We collect the first installment of the property taxes, then distribute the money to other taxing districts. The second installment of property tax is payable to the Marathon County Treasurer by July 31st. This illustration shows how your local tax dollars are distributed.



Stratford
 School
 District
 37.31 cents

Marathon
 County
 27.52 cents

Village
 of
 Stratford
 24.81 cents

Northcentral
 Technical
 College
 9.5 cents

State
 of
 Wisconsin
 < 1 cent

Be Part of the 2010 Census Team

In Spring 2009 and in early 2010, several thousand temporary census jobs will be available nationwide for qualified applicants. You can help our community have a successful 2010 Census.

Census workers earn competitive pay, get paid weekly, work flexible hours, receive paid training, and are reimbursed for authorized mileage and expenses. Census Bureau staff will be taking applications and testing at the Stratford Community Hall on the following dates and times:

March 18 3:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.
 March 24 & 25 9:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.

For more information about joining the local 2010 Census Team, call the U.S. Census Bureau at their toll-free number, 1-866-861-2010.

Mark Your Calendar



April 7 — Spring Election Day

Vote for municipal, school district, county, and state races at the Community Hall, 7:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m. All voters must be pre-registered or arrive at the polling location with proper identification and proof of residency to register on election day.

May 1 & 2 — Rummaging Around Stratford

\$12.00 fee provides radio and print advertising, signs, and maps. To participate in this area-wide garage sale event, contact Diedra at 687-9213 or Maria at 389-8362. Sign-up forms, available at the Village office and at local businesses, must be turned in by April 10th.

May 14 — Spring Clean Up Day

Curbside collection of discarded household items, such as mattresses, carpet, appliances, furniture, etc. Please refer to your annual Garbage and Recycling brochure for more details.

June 11—14 — Heritage Days

Stratford's 21st annual celebration of ethnic ancestry providing enjoyment for the entire family.