

VILLAGE OF STRATFORD

October 2009

NEWSLETTER



Choose Your Garbage Cart for 2010

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>2010 Annual Charge</u>
Small	35 gallon	\$ 84.00
Medium	65 gallon	\$111.00
Large	95 gallon	\$138.00

Village residents also pay \$45.00 per year for recycling collection services. With more diligent recycling efforts, many households are 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 30th! (687-4166 / stratfordclerk@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. Stickers for excess garbage bags are available at the Village Clerk's Office at a cost of \$1.50 per sticker. It may be a financial savings for you to reduce the size of your garbage cart and keep a few of the \$1.50 stickers on hand for the occasional weeks that you have excess garbage.

A word about dumpsters. Many businesses have contracts with garbage haulers to place a dumpster at their business site. The Village has dumpsters placed at Village facilities for municipal use. It is illegal to take excess garbage or large discarded items from your home and add them to a private dumpster on another's property. Violators will be fined.

*Something to think
about from...*



We cannot ignore the fact that utility bills and electric rates continue to creep upward. Unfortunately, customers don't always see how difficult it can be to juggle all the balls at once to keep the lights on and electric rates affordable.

The American Public Power Association highlights some of the reasons that make public power utilities a unique community asset.

- **LOW RATES:** A typical municipal electric utility's rates are 15%-20% lower than an investor-owned utility.
- **CUSTOMER SERVICE:** A utility office located in the community provides for unmatched customer service.
- **NOT FOR PROFIT:** All municipal electric utility revenues and expenditures are overseen by local governing commissions or local elected bodies, and all rates must be approved by the Public Service Commission. The only shareholders are you, the customers!
- **LOCAL CONTROL:** Local citizens have the opportunity to serve on the utility commission, giving them the authority to make decisions affecting utility operations. Local people governing the local utility!
- **LOCAL MANAGEMENT/EMPLOYMENT:** The local utility employs management staff and others right from our community.
- **COMMUNITY FOCUSED:** The utility participates in community events and activities, providing support for groups and other municipal departments as needed.

CHANGES TO INCOME LEVELS HELP MORE RESIDENTS QUALIFY FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE!



ENERGY SERVICES 1-715-842-3111
(Marathon County heating assistance program.)
Apply early! 2009-2010 funds are limited!

FOCUS ON ENERGY 1-800-762-7077
www.focusonenergy.com
(Grants and incentives for residential weatherizing and energy-savings upgrades.)

FEDERAL TAX REBATES
www.energystar.gov/taxcredits
(Tax rebates for improving energy efficiency in existing homes.)

Trail Donations Continue to Roll In!

The interest in Stratford's Heritage Trail is gaining ground! Thanks to the following trail supporters for your generous donations.

SPONSOR LEVEL (\$1,000—\$4,999)

Stratford Lions Club

ENTHUSIAST LEVEL (\$500—\$999)

Greenberg Farms (In-kind donation)

Jim & Kay Leick

FRIEND LEVEL (\$100—\$499)

Leon & Patricia Tietyen

Bryan & Stacey Weichelt



Learn more about Stratford's Heritage Trail by visiting the Village/Chamber website and clicking the TRAIL link on the left side of the home page.

www.stratfordwi.com

Have You Refinanced Your Mortgage?

Property tax season is just around the corner. Many national mortgage companies communicate with local municipalities, sometimes through a "tax service", to request the amount of property tax due on their mortgaged properties. Many homeowners have recently refinanced their mortgages, taking advantage of the reduced interest rates. Property owners should be aware of your bank's or mortgage company's practices regarding the tax escrow you pay throughout the year and the schedule they use for paying the property taxes on your behalf.

If your property tax payments are escrowed and paid to the municipality by your mortgage holder, a quick call to confirm their payment schedule can help to reduce payment delays or confusion.

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

Thinking About Getting A Pet?

Charles M. Schulz said, "Happiness is a warm puppy."

If you're thinking of adding a four-legged friend to your household, be aware of the restrictions regarding pets in the Village of Stratford.



Ordinance 7-1-6 makes it unlawful to own or keep any dog or cat which habitually pursues vehicles, attacks any person or destroys property, runs at large, habitually barks or howls, kills or wounds another domestic animal, or is infected with rabies.

Possession of some dog breeds is also regulated. "Vicious" dogs not allowed in the village include pit bulls and any of the bull terrier mixed breeds.

All dogs must be licensed annually, with proof of current rabies vaccine required to obtain the license. If your dog gets loose, the license identification tag might be his or her ticket home. Each household is limited to a maximum of three dogs, unless a kennel license is applied for and approved.

At this time, the Village of Stratford does not license cats.

Let's Have a Safe & Fun Halloween!

Saturday, October 31st 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.

Mark Your Calendars



October — Document Destruction at Stratford State Bank. No charge, during lobby hours. Certified services by IROW. Call 687-2411 for more details.

Oct. 3 — Hazardous Waste Disposal & Electronics Recycling Event
8:00 a.m. - Noon, Stratford Fire Station

Oct. 14 — Energy Services Team in Stratford - By appt. only!
10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m., Community Hall
(Call 715-842-3111 for an appointment or for information on the heating assistance program.)

Oct. 15 — Fall Clean Up Day *
Curbside collection of discarded household items.

Oct. 19-20 & 26-27 & Nov. 2-3 — Yard Waste Collection *
Curbside collection of leaves, grass clippings and garden materials.

* **Residents:** Refer to your Garbage & Recycling brochure for details on these special collection events.