

VILLAGE OF STRATFORD

February 2011

NEWSLETTER

First Responders Urgently Needed

The Stratford area is rapidly growing and as the local need for First Responders increases, the number of active First Responders is down. The Stratford Area Fire and Emergency Medical teams respond to calls in the Village of Stratford and six surrounding municipalities. There are currently only ten first responders in the outlying communities and these people have limited availability. More volunteers are needed to provide 24/7 emergency coverage. If you have ever considered becoming a First Responder, now is the time to step up!

As a First Responder, you are allowed the freedom to go about your day, while being available to serve your neighbors and community. You help by responding from home or work to various emergency calls — strokes, chest pain, injuries, etc. Equipped with defibrillators and basic emergency equipment, First Responders arrive on the scene to provide life-saving care until the ambulance with EMS-trained staff arrives. Each call takes only 30-45 minutes of your time and you receive an hourly wage.

Becoming a First Responder requires about 60 hours of class time. Prices vary, but the cost of the class and books is about \$300. SAFD currently covers the class fees (half at registration and the balance upon successful completion) when you commit for a two-year contract with SAFD. All class hours will also be paid to you when your contract is fulfilled.

The Town of McMillan has openings in an upcoming First Responder class on Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning February 15th, plus two Saturdays in March. Other classes will be scheduled based on interest.

Being a First Responder is very rewarding. Every call is different and exciting. If you are interested in learning more about the opportunity to serve as a local First Responder or to become part of the Stratford Area Fire/EMS, please contact Tonia Ochoa at 715-687-4157 or 715-615-3343 or by emailing stratfordems@frontier.com.



Pre-Emergency Planning

Providing clean and safe drinking water to our customers is a main function of the Stratford Water & Electric Utility. Groundwater sources supplying the local wells are always vulnerable to contaminants during a natural disaster — a flood or tornado, for example. However, the potential for an intentional contamination with criminal intent also exists.

The Village's water operator, Jeff Aschebrock, recently coordinated a tabletop exercise with the assistance of Pre-Emergency Planning LLC of Lodi, Wisconsin. The exercise included water utility staff members, as well as representatives from the WI Dept. of Natural Resources, Marathon County Health Dept., Stratford Police Dept., Stratford Area Fire and EMS staff, and local water/electric commissioners and village board members. Using the utility's Emergency Response Plan, participants worked through a disaster scenario identifying and responding to an act of vandalism against the municipal water system. The exercise allowed for the utility personnel and emergency agencies to evaluate their procedures and capabilities in a simulated environment. The group identified strengths and weaknesses in the Emergency Response Plan and will use the information gathered from the exercise to address future planning and training needs.

Stratford's water system consists of five groundwater wells supplying an average of 90,000 gallons each day. Aschebrock acts as the main water operator for the local utility, with Scott Dennee, Jerry Frodl, and Dave Pospyhalla also certified in groundwater distribution. System monitoring and daily operations are used to rapidly detect a water



contamination or identify a breach or malfunction in the water system. In the event of a water emergency, it is critical to have a notification plan and alternate water supply strategy in place. Understanding roles and responsibilities *before* an event will aid in the effective and timely response and recovery following an emergency.

Aschebrock appreciates the cooperation of the exercise participants and the assistance received from county and state agencies.

Mark Your Calendars

FEBRUARY 15 **Primary Election Day**
7:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.
Community Hall

APRIL..... 5 **Spring Election Day**
7:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.
Community Hall

APRIL 30

Nat '1 Prescription Drug Take Back Day

Watch for more information from the Stratford Police Dept. for local disposal of unwanted, unused prescription drugs.

MAY 6-7

Rummaging Around Stratford

To register your sale, contact Diedre Krueger at 715-687-9213.

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Spring Clean Up Day

JUNE 9-12

Heritage Days



Plastics Recycling



Did you know Americans buy 29.8 billion plastic bottles annually, while only two out of every ten bottles will be recycled. The other 80% take up space in a landfill, waiting to decompose over the next 1,000 years. Recycling one ton of plastic bottles saves the equivalent energy usage of a two person household for one year. Recycling markets are ever-changing with manufacturers constantly finding new ways to re-use plastics. Today's plastic bottles are being recycled as carpets and textile products, grocery and garbage bags, lumber products such as decking and fencing, and children's play equipment and outdoor furniture.

We all know the importance of recycling water and soda bottles, and milk and liquid laundry jugs. The Village's recycling program was recently increased to include plastics numbered 1 through 7, so it is equally important to also include plastics from shampoo and other beauty products, salad dressings, yogurt and cottage cheese cups, etc. when setting out your recyclables. In 2010, Village residents recycled nearly five tons of plastics. Let's challenge ourselves to increase our plastic tonnage in 2011!

On another note, the Veolia recycling driver requests we no longer tie plastic jugs together. With updates to their trucks and recycling equipment, jugs that are tied on a string must be cut apart prior to being loaded into the truck hopper. For ease of handling, it is preferred that glass, plastic, and cans placed for curbside collection remain loose in the recycling crate. *Thanks!*

Reading Your Electric Meter

Electric usage varies from household to household, depending on the size of your home, number and type of appliances, and how you use them. Your electric meter keeps track of it all, recording the total amount of electricity used. You can look at your own usage between scheduled readings by learning to read your meter. The dials, which look like little clocks, alternately run clockwise and counter-clockwise. Reading from left to right, write down the last number each needle has passed. Compare that sequence to your last reading and you can monitor your household energy consumption.



The Stratford Water & Electric Dept. has a device called an "energy teller" to help customers identify the real energy abusers in your home. Simply plug an appliance into the device and it will display the energy consumption by the kilowatt-hour being used. Contact Roseann Johnson at 715-687-4166 if you would like to borrow an "energy teller" for a week or two.

New Carbon Monoxide Detector Requirements Begin February 1st

Under a new law passed last year, properly operating carbon monoxide (CO) detectors are required in all homes and duplexes in Wisconsin as of February 1, 2011. A CO detector must be installed on all levels of single-family homes and two-unit residences, including the basement, and excluding attic or storage areas. CO detectors are already required in other kinds of multi-unit housing. New construction will require CO detectors to be hard-wired, while existing homes can use battery-operated models.

Carbon monoxide is an invisible, tasteless, odorless, poisonous gas that cannot be detected by human senses. Dubbed, the "silent killer", carbon monoxide results when there is an improper and/or inefficient burning of natural gas or propane, and can be fatal within minutes.

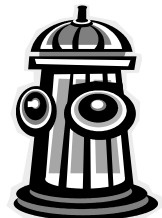


Wisconsin Public Service, electricity supplier to Stratford Water & Electric, has partnered with First Alert to offer a 20% discount on CO detectors and combination smoke/CO detectors. To take advantage of this special, visit First Alert's website at www.firstalertstore.com and select the alarm you would like to purchase. Enter coupon code "INTEGRYS" during the checkout process to receive the 20% discount. This offer is good through April 1st.

It takes only a few minutes to shovel out a fire hydrant after a snowfall. But, in case of a fire, those few minutes could mean the difference between containing a fire or losing a home. With 124 fire hydrants in the Village, it is important for residents to pitch in and "adopt" a hydrant in your neighborhood. The Public Works crew values the extra efforts of residents who are helping to keep hydrants clear this season.

With as much snow as we have received — and so early in December — it has also been an especially difficult season for reading the utility meters. Residents are asked to take a few minutes to view the path to your outdoor water and electric meters and keep the area cleared for utility workers.

Thank you!



VILLAGE OF STRATFORD

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Department	Phone	Email *
Clerk / Treasurer	715-687-4166	stratfordclerk
Police Dept. (non-emergency)	715-687-3131	stratfordpolice
Water & Electric Dept. (billing)	715-687-4166	stratfordutility
Water & Electric and Public Works Shop	715-687-4118	stratfordpubworks

*All email addresses end in: @stratfordwi.com