Winter Wonderland
December 9th
4:00 pm
Veterans Memorial Park
Corner of Vassar and Grand Avenues

Light refreshments will be served

***No RAIN DATE***

We will be collecting items for Soldier Care Packages; please separate food from other items and make sure the items are not expired.

Items needed for Deployed Soldier Care Packages:
sunflower seeds, pop tarts, granola bars, cookies, sardines, Chapstick, crossword puzzle books, pens, pencils, hard candy, gum, Slim Jim’s, beef jerky, peanut butter crackers

Items needed for Active-Duty Military families:
ground coffee, any type, teabags, flour, pancake mix & syrup, soup & crackers, cereal, rice, canned vegetables, diapers, paper napkins, oatmeal, etc.

Shipping Cost Fund: A donation box will be available for cash or check donations: Please make checks payable to: Military Support Group of NJ

**Also, include a Note or Christmas Card – You will brighten their day **
Dear Neighbors,

Redevelopment and Business News

We just received the latest sales figures from Ryan Homes for “Stratford Commons” on Berlin Road. They have sold 41 of their 49 homes. Over 80% of the homes are sold just six months after the grand opening. The last of the buildings will be coming out of the ground in December.

All units will be occupied in the early part of 2024. The new homes are very lovely inside and out. Ryan Homes has been a pleasure to work with throughout the whole process.

At the Royal Farm location on the “Stratford Square” complex, the storm drains and the new roadway connecting to Rowan University have been completed. Royal Farms is responsible for the remainder of the site work for their portion of the site. The permits have been processed for the removal of the old store façade and walkway covering in front of the retail stores. A new more contemporary façade will be installed with a new front awning. The new owners of the old Bradlees’ site have completed their clean up of the interior space and installed a new roof. We are awaiting their application to the Joint Land Use Board for the new warehouse use of this space. We look forward to all the new tax revenue this site will be responsible for once each portion is completed. All this is part of a long-standing Redevelopment Plan and Agreement with the owner.

At the new Veterans Village complex on Colby Avenue, interior renovations continue. The new entry doors for each apartment have been installed. They are busy inside installing all the electrical, plumbing, etc. to create 21 one-bedroom apartments dedicated just for honorable US veterans. There is a large unmet need for housing of our veterans, and many veteran groups have expressed gratitude to Stratford for hosting this complex.

The Stratford senior living facility has been officially named. It will be called “Creekside at Stratford”. They have received some long-awaited approvals from the NJ Department of Health, and expects to start ground work in the early part of 2024.

Auto Zone is still working on interior work inside the old Pep Boys space. Pep Boys is also working on the auto bay side of the old space, finishing the new joint effort between these two national auto part companies. Auto Zone will be selling auto parts and accessories in what was the prior Pep Boys retail store, but Pep Boys will still continue to operate their auto repair bay services on the Princeton Avenue side of the building.

The old Verizon Store located at White Horse Pike and Laurel Road has recently been sold to an owner who bought it simply as an investment. The new owner has the building up for lease, and is hopeful this prime corner will come to life soon.

The owner of the old Checker’s site (prior Free Bryd Chicken) is talking to a few new prospective tenants. We are hopeful for this site to re-open and become a thriving food service.

The Desi Bazaar located at 35 South White Horse Pike, is planning to expand into the vacant prior Worknet Occupational Care space. Desi Bazaar finds a need for expansion, and we are happy to see vacant space filled.
My Farewell:

As I am now in the last few weeks of my time as your devoted Mayor. I have fully enjoyed and loved each and every moment in becoming part of Stratford's history as one of your Mayors. I came to Stratford 58 years ago, newly married, and made roots here for my family which included my three sons, and late wife Madge. I have always felt the need to be involved in Stratford, may that be in my church at St. Luke, in the schools especially my decades on the Sterling Board of Education, and in local groups. I was not involved politically prior to becoming your Mayor, unlike the Mayors who came before me. I felt it was time to take Stratford on a future course, on a new path, which had long been stagnated due to prior Mayors. In my heart I think and feel I have achieved my goal, and Stratford is indeed on that new path. Your newly elected Mayor, Linda Hall, will begin making her own history in Stratford on her first day. She will be the first woman Mayor of Stratford. I will never forget a group of local girl scouts came to tour the borough offices, and noticed a picture showing all the Mayors of Stratford. One young lady inquired, ‘why there were no woman shown’. Well now there will be a woman shown on the wall of Mayors!

All my faith is in the new Mayor and the existing Councilmembers as I step aside. They have worked for years with me, as a united TEAM. They all have the same vision, to take Stratford forward, and to make it better for ALL of our residents.

I thank my past and present Councilmembers for their teamwork, and the many hours the position takes from their normal lives, and commitment to the residents. I want to also thank the many employees and so many of our volunteers. We have many volunteers in Stratford. We have those on our local boards and commissions, those who staff the fire, EMS, OEM, library, and not to forget the Stratford Athletic Organization, Tarkill, scouts, senior groups, school groups and religious groups. As a collected group we ALL make Stratford a better place to call HOME!

I ask you to continue to support Mayor Linda Hall, and her team of Councilmembers. Also please patronize as many of the local businesses who make up our community. They cannot survive without you.

I hope to see many of you at the upcoming Christmas Tree Lighting on December 1st at Yellin School. Last year was the first time at this new location, and it was the best attended tree lighting ever. Come out and make it even better!

Josh Keenan
Proud Mayor of Stratford

Stratford Backyard Hens

Following ordinance 23:04, residents are permitted to keep backyard hens provided that they complete the licensing process. All licenses require that residents complete:

- An approved class on keeping chickens
- A site visit by the Stratford Hen Advisory Commission for their coop and run
- An application with payment submitted to the borough

All licenses must be renewed annually on March 1st.
For more information, email StratfordHens@gmail.com or visit Borough Hall.
DOG AND CAT LICENSING/PET ORDINANCES All licenses should be renewed by the end of January. If you no longer have your pet, please call the Borough at 783-0600 to let us know. If you have called, thank you. A reminder that there is an ordinance for your pet/pets wandering beyond your property without a leash; and for disturbing the peace and quiet, with habitual barks or cries. Please take note to be considerate of your neighbors. Any new dogs or cats 6 months of age or older must be registered, please stop by the Borough Hall.

PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOGS
Please remember when walking your dog, there is a “pooper scooper” law in Stratford. Please be considerate of other residents’ yards, as well as your own.

BOROUGH CODE - CHAPTER 6.04 – DOGS AND CATS
The Borough of Stratford would like to give a friendly reminder regarding pet regulations.

• Running at large prohibited. No person owning, keeping or harboring any dog, cat or other domestic animal shall suffer or permit it to run at large upon the public streets, public sidewalks, public parks or in any public building or in any other public place or on any private property without the consent of the owner.

• Leash requirement. No person owning, keeping or harboring any dog shall suffer or permit it to be upon the public streets or in any public places of the borough unless such dog is accompanied by a person over the age of twelve (12) years and is securely controlled and confined by an adequate leash not more than six (6) feet long.

STORM DRAINS
The Borough of Stratford has a Storm Water Management Plan and a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan to help reduce flood damage and soil erosion, and to minimize pollution runoff into our water supply. We need your help to ensure the protection of our water through the storm drain system.

Please remember:
• Limit your use of fertilizers/pesticides
• Properly use and dispose of hazardous products
• Keep pollution out of storm drains
• Clean up after your pet
• Don’t feed wildlife
• Don’t litter- Don’t throw discarded items into woods or ravines
• Dispose of yard waste properly- Use our Green Waste Collection!

Collection! For more information about storm water visit: Borough of Stratford Stormwater Information Center http://stratfordnj.org/stormwater-information

NJ.gov Stormwater In
https://www.nj.gov/dep/stormwater

HANDICAPPED EQUIPMENT
If you have used handicapped equipment such as commodes, walkers, canes, wheelchairs, etc. you may drop them off at Borough Hall. Many residents cannot afford such equipment and depend on the inventory at the Borough Hall. Thank you for your kind donations.
The History of Stratford’s Earliest Schools  by Carole Dadino, Stratford Historian

The first floor of this building was the converted Lippincott Farm, Sheep Barn. It was donated to the town by Charles King in 1892, for use as the first school and sat on, what is now, 302 Union Ave. New development necessitated it’s move to Kirkwood and Union Aves. The school had one room and all eight grades were taught by one teacher, Mrs. Millicent Smith. The first year it was a “Pay” school, charging 25¢ per week, because Gloucester Township refused to supply a teacher. There were only eight pupils, having to purchase their own supplies. It soon became a public school with about forty pupils. The Stratford Community Center building now occupies the site.

As a new school became necessary, the first Princeton School was built in 1902, replacing the old sheep barn. The building was moved to Harvard Ave., where it remains as a residence.

In 1926, the old Princeton School replacement included a basement and first floor, with four class-rooms.

A second floor with two classrooms and an auditorium, with complete theater-type stage, was added in 1936. The building remains as a Buddhist Temple.

Princeton School May Day, 1936

Earlier schools also attended by children living in what is now, Stratford.

A school was built in 1844 by Ephraim Tomlinson for the children of his farm workers. The children attending were also from farms and few businesses in this section of Gloucester/Clementon Township, that were incorporated into Stratford, in 1925. A church now occupies the site on Laurel Rd., in Lindenwold.

Luke H. Moore
Stratford pupils had to go to school first On Laurel Road where Community used to be at top of the hill the other side of Francis Hall Military Academy.
Elvira Moore Fink

Stratford’s archived history mentions a school that was located on the corner of Somerdale & Warwick Roads. It was also attended by children living in, what is now, Stratford. The old building has been remodeled many times, but still remains as a residence.
Stratford 2023
Halloween House Decorating Contest
Winners

1st Place
115 Whitman Avenue

2nd Place
6 Buttonwood Drive

3rd Place
109 Longwood Drive

4th Place
18 Homestead Road

5th Place (tie)
23 Bryan Mawr Avenue

5th Place (tie)
6 Greentree Road
The Stratford Fire Department is pleased to announce that our firefighters will be escorting Santa on top of the fire trucks throughout town once again this year on Christmas Eve.

Due to time restraints, we will not be able to make stops at residents homes as in years past, but we hope to see you all in front of your homes waving to Santa as we pass by. Santa’s helpers will be handing out candy canes this year.

Happy holidays from the members of Station 64.

Low Speed Electric Bicycles and Electric Scooters

Especially this time of year, the Stratford Police Department receives inquiries regarding the legalities of various electric scooters and electric bicycles. As described in the below law, E-Bikes and E-Scooters maybe operated within the Borough of Stratford. All riders of E-Bikes or E-Scooters must abide by all rules of the roadway. Riders under the age of 17 years of age must wear a securely fitting helmet while operating an E-Bike or E-Scooters.

FAQ: WHAT IS LEGAL?

Low Speed Electric Bicycles and Electric Scooters Defined New Jersey Statute 39:4-14.16

Low-speed Electric Bicycles or Low-Speed Electric Scooters may be operated upon a street or roadway in Stratford or any town in New Jersey. The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Code classifies these two types of motorized vehicles as follows:

1. Low-Speed Electric Bicycle, commonly referred to as an E-Bike must consist of two or three wheels must have pedals to assist an electric motor and cannot exceed 20 MPH with the rider pedaling. If the bicycle cannot be pedaled independent of the electric motor, the bike is not an E-Bike under New Jersey law and is illegal to operate on the streets. Mopeds and electric pocket bikes are not E-Bike's. Electric or gas pocket cycles are not street legal.

2. Low-speed Electric Scooter* means a scooter with a floorboard that can be stood upon by the operator, with handlebars, and an electric motor that is capable of propelling the device with or without human propulsion at a maximum speed of less than 20 MPH

FAQ: WHAT IS NOT LEGAL?

Any electric vehicle that is not an E-Bike or Electric Scooter as defined above, are not legal to be operated on roadways in Stratford or any other roadways within the State of New Jersey.

With all that that said, children’s power wheels, big wheels or similar electric toys may be driven on privately owned property or adjacent to sidewalks under parental supervision.
**Stratford Fire Department**

"Station 64"

*Membership Drive*

Residents: The Stratford Fire Department is currently seeking residents 16 years of age and older to volunteer. Young men and women between 16-17 years of age will become a part of our Junior Firefighter program. Applicants 18 years of age and older will be trained as Active Firefighters. Free training and schooling. If interested, please stop by the Firehouse any Tuesday evening at 7:30 PM for a tour and to pick up an application.

*House & Building Numbers*

Please ensure your house number is visible from the street. This will assist emergency personnel when responding to assist our residents during times of emergencies. We have observed several homes in town that do not have house numbers properly affixed. Please pass this important information on to your neighbors as well. The boro code is attached for reference.

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**Stratford Police Department**

*NIXLE ALERT*

PLEASE REGISTER TO JOIN 2100 OTHER STRATFORD RESIDENTS WHO RECEIVE OUR VERY IMPORTANT COMMUNITY TEXT MESSAGES - EMAIL ALERT SYSTEM

This service delivers trustworthy and important neighborhood-level public safety and community event notifications by web, e-mail, and cellular phone text messaging. For example, this system could be utilized to broadcast a description of a missing child, notify the public of a serious crime or announce major traffic detours or accidents.

UPCOMING ROAD DETOURS AND TRAFFIC PATTERN CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY THE STRATFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT USING NIXLE

Nixle is a completely free network, simple, and trusted. Stratford residents, school officials and business owners, can register in just minutes at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com)

Only representatives of the Stratford Police Department are able to issue alerts and messages via the Nixle System, therefore you can be assured that no spam or commercial advertisements will be sent to your inbox. Please take just a moment to register and remind friends and family members to do so as well. [WWW.NIXLE.COM](http://WWW.NIXLE.COM)

**SNOW EVENT SPECIAL PARKING RESTRICTIONS**

Parking on all roadways is banned during PLOWABLE snow events, to allow for snow plow clearance. By clearing the snow to the curb, the borough can ensure adequate cart way clearance for Fire Trucks, Ambulances and other emergency vehicles.

10.08.070 - Parking temporarily prohibited for snow removal and other emergencies.

A. Upon the discretion of the police department, any ranking officer is authorized to declare an emergency. Upon the declaration of an emergency, there will be no parking upon streets when weather conditions, accidents, fires or public celebrations dictate or require the avoidance of hazards or other conditions which interfere with the free flow of traffic.

B. Any unoccupied vehicle parked or standing in violation of this section shall be deemed a nuisance and a menace to the safe and proper regulation of traffic and any police officer may provide for the removal of such vehicle. The owner shall pay the reasonable costs of the removal and storage which may result from such removal before regaining possession of the vehicle.

WE ASK FOR YOUR VOLUNTARY COOPERATION TO THIS NOTICE
ON-LINE POLICE REPORTING SERVICE

The Stratford Police Department would like to remind our residents of the availability of filing a police report online from your home or office. The online portal to the Stratford Police Department should only be used for matters that require reporting to the Stratford Police Department. Fraud, suspicious activity, or minor offenses that may not necessitate the immediate response by a Stratford Police Officer. The public is invited to follow the below link and file the report online if you so desire. Within 24 hours, an officer will review the submission for validity and make any follow up referral that may be warranted. If accepted for filing, a Stratford Police Department case number will be generated for future reference.

As a reminder, the non-emergency number for the police department is 856-783-8616, but keep in mind the police department offices are only staffed during normal business hours.

A link to the online police report portal may also be found on the Stratford Borough Police Department website. https://reports.csitech.com/OnlineReport.aspx

HOLIDAY SEASON

With the holiday season just around the corner, the Stratford Police Department would like to share safety tips to make your holiday season safe. For most, the holiday season is overwhelming and stressful.

When shopping, do not leave valuables out in plain sight, lock them in your trunk. Park in a well-lit area and have your keys ready as you approach your vehicle. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash and always be aware of your surroundings. Only carry cards you plan on using and monitor your bank statements for fraudulent activity.

If you plan to travel, avoid aggressive and angry driving. Designate a sober driver or plan on ordering a ride share service. In snowy or icy conditions, increase following distance to avoid collisions.

If you are going away for the holiday or even a few hours, do not forget to activate your alarm or set timers on interior lights. Consider leaving a television and lights on to deter thieves. The appearance that someone is home is a great deterrence since most residential burglaries occur when no one is home.

Make arrangements with someone to collect delivered packages to prevent theft. Also, consider having them delivered to your place of employment or arrange to pick them up from retailers.

Please report all suspicious activity to the Stratford Police Department.

On behalf of the Stratford Police Department, I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season

Sgt. John Beasley #3203
Stratford Police Department

SEASONAL HINTS from Code Enforcement

Smoke Ordinance” (Code 8.56.090) which regulates the emission of excessive smoke from open fires which causes public health and Sanitation concerns. Repeat violators could face monetary fines and court appearances.

Fire Pits shall be 25 feet from a dwelling, combustible structure ie, shed (15 feet in an approved container with a spark arrester)

Fire Pits shall be 25 feet away from any combustible material ie, wooden fence, leaf piles, wood piles etc.

Fire Pits shall be no larger than 3 foot wide x 3 feet long x 3 feet high.

Shall be in an approved container with a spark arrester

Shall have at least one form of extinguishment readily available ie garden hose, water bucket

Shall be attended to by at least (1) competent adult until fully extinguished.
WE ARE FREE..... BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE

Senior Chief Dale Oltarzewski, Naval Science Instructor led the Sterling High School Naval ROTC Color Guard Cadets.

Stratford resident and Vietnam War Veteran, Doug Johnson gave remarks and thanked our Veterans for their service. Donations for deployed troops were collected. Thanks to all who contributed. These donations are managed by Karen Jennings, Marine Mom, Stratford resident and founder and director of The Military Support Group of NJ.

Tony Melle, Air Force Veteran and Heroic Gardens Advisory Board Member gave a special memorial honor to Bill Scully, Army National Guard Veteran.

Bill Scully, age 49, passed away last November in a tragic accident. He was not only a 20-year Veteran, but he also worked as a guidance counselor at Sterling High School where he was also the head coach of both the boys and girls volleyball teams. He served as a coach for his three children within Tarkill Soccer Club, Stratford Athletic Organization, Deptford Soccer Club and Special Olympics of New Jersey where he coached soccer and bocce ball.

Tony Melle branded the newly built bocce court at Veterans Memorial Park with a comment saying, “For a Veteran, by a Veteran.”
Looking forward to

Building a Better Community Together...

Bill Scully’s family including his wife, Nancy and daughter, Erin attended the event along with members of Erin’s Special Olympics Bocce team.

Erin asked to speak a few words from her heart, and she ended her thoughts by saying “This game is for you, Daddy.”

Stratford Parks and Recreation Commission: What is happening at the parks? Update:

**Saratoga Road Park** – We will begin construction at Saratoga over the winter. We will be replacing some of the older equipment with safer, updated pieces.

**Coolidge Park** – We have received a couple of quotes for constructing a walkway from the gate to the playground equipment areas for ADA accessibility. We hope to have something approved and planned in 2024.

**Laureba Avenue Open Space Park** - Open space. We are asking the community’s, mainly those living in that neighborhood, for their thoughts on the addition of a fenced-in dog park for a portion of that area.

**Quaker Run Trail** - (Nature Park) Rustic trail park for the community to enjoy hiking and being in nature. Take a walk through when you can.

**Vassar Road Park** – A new pickleball raquet holder will be added. This park continues to be a great place for the children to play and pickleballers of all abilities to enjoy the game. A half court basketball area is often seen with residents playing.

**Veterans Memorial Park** - We are pricing out a sprinkler system for the front of the park to beautify the front area. Nothing has been able to grow or survive longterm due to lack of watering. We will hold our annual Winter Wonderland event on December 9th at the park.

**Yelling School Courts/Vassar Road** - We held 2 beginner pickleball clinics this past year and plan on doing so again in 2024. One in Spring and one in the Fall.

**UPCOMING EVENT:**
We look forward to seeing you at our annual Winter Wonderland Event on December 9th at Veterans Memorial Park.

**Stratford Parks and Recreation Commission**
Our meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month and are open to the public. Feel free to join us!
A big thanks and shout out to the students of Sterling High School who came out November 18th for a litter clean up in and around Josiah C. Clark Park.

Thanks also to Teacher Mike Goffredo, Coach Jeff Abbott and Councilwoman Tina Lomanno who helped organize the event.
Thanks to everyone who came out on November 19th for the Bill Scully Memorial Walk at Sterling High School. It was heartwarming to see the Sterling/Stratford community come out for a great man, husband, father, coach, and counselor.
SHOW YOUR HOLIDAY COLORS

Spread some holiday cheer and maybe win a prize!

Gift cards for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th place winners!

Open to all Stratford residents

❖ Deck your home with lights and decorations

❖ E-mail lindahall@stratfordnj.org to enter

❖ Deadline December 18, 2023

This contest is a fun and easy way to brighten up Stratford at the most wonderful time of the year!

Thanks for Lighting Up, Stratford!

Judging begins on Wednesday December 20, 2023 @ 6:30pm
**LAUREL MANOR**

**HO HO HO**

**Holiday Event**

**Fun for the Whole Family**

Monday, December 11th
5:30-7:00 PM

Laurel Manor Rehab
18 W Laurel Rd, Stratford, NJ

🌟 Photos with Santa
🌟 Hot Chocolate Bar
🌟 Light Refreshments
🌟 Famous Light Display

RSVP to Jenna by December 7th
Text or Call 856-298-0118

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**LAUREL MANOR**

**Poinsettia Drive-Thru Giveaway**

Helping you deck the halls

Tuesday December 5th | 3-5 PM
18 W Larel Road

CALL or TEXT Jenna:
856-298-0118
STRATFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY IS HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE

STORYTIME IS RETURNING ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER
20TH AND WILL CONTINUE THROUGH DECEMBER!

STORYTIME WITH LIZETTE WILL BE MEETING
MONDAYS AT NOON FOR A STORY & A CRAFT!

JOIN US FOR SOME FUN!
REGISTER TODAY!!!

For further info call us (856)783-0602
Thanksgiving Safety

The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially at Thanksgiving. Kids love to be involved in holiday preparations. Safety in the kitchen is important, especially on Thanksgiving Day when there is a lot of activity and people at home.

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay 3 feet away.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep the floor clear so you don’t trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.

Did you know?

Thanksgiving is the leading day of the year for home fires involving cooking equipment.

Have activities that keep kids out of the kitchen during this busy time. Games, puzzles or books can keep them busy. Kids can get involved in Thanksgiving preparations with recipes that can be done outside the kitchen.
Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

**HOLIDAY DECORATING**
- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer’s instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

**HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING**
- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

---

**Before Heading Out or to Bed**

**Blow out** lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

---

**FACTS**

⚠️ More than **one-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.

⚠️ More than **two of every five** decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

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**NFPA**

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

nfpa.org/education ©NFPA 2019
Christmas Tree Safety

As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.

**PICKING THE TREE**
- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

**PLACING THE TREE**
- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2” from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

**LIGHTING THE TREE**
- Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer’s instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

**After Christmas**
Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.
Check with your local community to find a recycling program.
Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

**FACTS**

⚠️ Almost one third of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.

⚠️ Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.

⚠️ A heat source too close to the tree causes more than one in every five of the fires.

Your Source for SAFETY Information
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

www.nfpa.org/education ©NFPA 2020
# Stratford Senior Events

## November 2023

@ the Stratford Community Center
302 Union Ave, Stratford, NJ 08084

### NOVEMBER EVENTS

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- **NOVEMBER 1: 1 - 3 P.M. CATERED LUNCH**
  - Free Catered Lunch
  - Sponsored by: Rothkoff

- **NOVEMBER 8: 1 - 4 P.M. HEALTH FAIR**
  - Free Screenings and information from health providers and services in your community. Senior citizen focused, but open to all ages!

- **NOVEMBER 15: 1 - 2 P.M. BALANCE COURSE**
  - Balance and Exercise Information
  - Hosted by 3-D Rehab

- **NOVEMBER 29: 1 - 2 P.M. BINGO & PRIZES**
  - Free Bingo and gift card prizes!
  - Hosted by Laurel Manor

Senior Residents from Stratford, Hi-Nella, Laurel Springs, and Somerdale are welcome to attend!

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**DONT MISS OUR FREE HEALTH FAIR**

Wed. 11/8 1 to 4 P.M.

Meet and learn from community health services and providers open to all ages!

Join the Mailing List for Senior Events:

**BY EMAIL** - StratfordSeniorCenter@Outlook.com

**OR BY PHONE** - (856)783-0600
# Stratford Senior Events

## December 2023

**302 Union Ave, Stratford, NJ 08084**

### December Events

**December 6:** 1-3 PM. **Catered Lunch**
Free Catered Lunch
Sponsored by Jefferson Health
Please RSVP to StratfordSeniorCenter@Outlook.com
or by phone - (856)783-0600

**December 10:** 1:30-3 PM. **Holiday Concert**
South Jersey Flute Choir Holiday Concert

**December 13:** 1-3 PM. **Holiday Craft**
Craft class with Makers Workshop, free with supplies included.
**MUST R.S.V.P.** ahead or spaces are limited,
→ StratfordSeniorCenter@Outlook.com or by phone - (856)783-0600

**December 20:** 1-2 PM. **Bingo & Prizes**
Free Bingo and gift card prizes!
Hosted by Laurel Manor

**December 29:** 4-6 PM. **Trivia Night**
Free Trivia Night and gift card prizes!

Senior Residents from Stratford, Hi-Nella, Laurel Springs, and Somerdale are welcome to attend!

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST AND RSVP for events by email:
StratfordSeniorCenter@Outlook.com or by phone - (856)783-0600

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### Blood Drive

**American Red Cross**

**Blood Drive SIGN-UP With your phone**

**Stratford Community Center**
302 Union Ave. Stratford, NJ 08084

**SAT. 12/16 - 9 A.M. TO 2 P.M.**

![QR Code for Blood Drive Sign-Up](#)
Help Support Our Troops

For 17 years, the Military Support Group of New Jersey Inc., a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization, has Collected, Packed and Shipped out Care Packages to U.S. Active Duty Military Troops who are Deployed out of the USA. We also Collect Non-Perishable Food Items for Military Families at Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst and Pomona Air Base.

If you would like to share the Name & APO or FPO address of your deployed Military person (any Branch of the Military) - please Email that info to Karen Jennings at KarenJJennings@aol.com

If you would like to Donate to this worthy cause go to Our website www.themilitarysupportgroupofnj.com to see the ITEMS that we collect (beef Jerky, Sunflower seeds, hard candy, gum, cookies, crackers, etc.) or to make a donation towards Postage Costs. for shipping.

Any questions, please Contact
Marine Mom, Karen Jennings at 856-783-1953, or cell 609-206-2015 Thank you. Serving the Military and their Families since 2004!

Karen Jennings, Marine Mom
Military Support Group of NJ
P.O. Box 118
Stratford, NJ 08084
O: 856-783-1953  C: 609-206-2015
Email: KarenJJennings@aol.com
Website: www.TheMilitarySupportGroupofNJ.com

Stratford Parks and Recreation Committee is planning a Winter Wonderland to light up Veterans Park for the winter months.

We are looking for donations of working SMALL CLEAR WHITE OUTDOOR LIGHTS from the community.

If you have any such lights, and would like to donate them, please drop them off to the Borough Hall by Monday, December 4, 2023.

Our committee encourages the community to enjoy the outdoors which enhances community involvement and health and wellness. All of us have had a couple of rough years. Let’s take time to enjoy the beauty in our little town of Stratford.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.
The Stratford Parks and Recreation Committee

LEAF COLLECTION & CHRISTMAS TREES

Leaf collection has begun. You may rake leaves to the curb for collection from the Public Works until December 18th.

Remember, once the leaf machine has gone through your street it won’t be back for about 2 weeks.

Please do not place cornstalks, mums, vines, concrete or branches in the leaves.

Chipping will resume in January 2024. Chipping will be done each week in January for Christmas Tree pick up, and will resume back to its usual schedule of the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month following.

SENIOR SEWER FEE REDUCTION

Will you turn 65 in 2023?

Will you turn 65 in 2023?
Apply for the 2024 Senior Citizens Sewer Fee Reduction!

Who is Eligible?
Stratford residents who turn 65 on or before December 31, 2023 own and reside in their home in Stratford.

What to Do by March 1, 2024:
Provide proof of your age to apply for the reduction; copies are fine, and Reductions will be applied in 2024!

Questions?
Call the Borough Hall at 856-783-0600

**Cutoff date March 1 2024!!!**
Our Places of Worship

Stratford Presbyterian Church: 41 Warwick Road Phone: (856) 435 - 0892 Website: stratfordpres.org

Sunday Services
Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Service 7:30 p.m.
Everyone is welcome.
Pastor Rev. Martin L. Dawson (856) 784-0674

Word Life Center (formerly Word Fellowship Church): 10 West Laurel Road Phone: (856) 435-1771 Website: worldlifecenter.com

Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Kidz Church (preschool-gr. 6) - Sunday 10:25 a.m.
Mid-Week Service – Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Kid’s Club (gr K-5) – Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
Small Groups – M,T,Th 6:30 p.m.
Prayer Walk – 2nd & 4th Saturdays 9:45 a.m.
Heaven in Business – every 3rd Saturday 8:45 a.m.
Praise & Worship Night 6:00 p.m.
(last Sunday of month)

Community
Prayer & Worship
Monday - Saturday
See our website for times.

Healing Room of Camden County ~ Candlelight Prayer House: 2 W Laurel Road Website: candlelightph.org

We minister using the power of God to bring about healing in the body and spirit.
Open 1st Friday of the month 7 - 9 pm.
All are welcome!

Web links
Heaven in Business: hibsj.org
Prophetic Art: wfcpropheticart.com

St. Luke R.C. Church: 55 Warwick Road Phone: (856) 627-2222 Website: dioceseofcamden.org

Buddhist Temple Duc Me Hien Mother of Grace Temple: 317 Princeton Avenue Phone: (856) 783 - 2327

Pureland Buddhist Society: 122 Union Avenue
IMPORTANT BOROUGH CONTACT INFORMATION

EMERGENCY
911
Police/Fire/Ambulance/ Sewerage Problems  784-4900

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
BOROUGH HALL  783-0600
BOROUGH FAX  783-0602
POLICE  783-7949
COURT  783-1093
FIRE  783-1649
AMBULANCE  784-4466
SEWERAGE  783-0601
LIBRARY  783-0602

SPECIAL SERVICES
Assessor in Thursdays  6:00 pm
Construction Official  4:00 - 6:00 pm
Electrical Inspector in Tuesday & Thursday  By Appointment
Plumbing Inspector in Tuesday & Thursday  By Appointment

BOROUGH COUNCIL WHO’S WHO

Mayor Josh Keenan
JoshKeenan@stratfordnj.org

Council President Stephen Gandy
StephenGandy@stratfordnj.org
Director of Emergency Services

Councilman Pat Gilligan
PatGilligan@stratfordnj.org
Director of Police

Councilwoman Linda Hall
LindaHall@stratfordnj.org
Director of Public Events

Councilwoman Tina Lomanno
TinaLomanno@stratfordnj.org
Director of Finance and Revenue

Councilman Michael Tolomeo
MikeTolomeo@stratfordnj.org
Director of Public Works

Councilman James Kelly
Jim.Kelly@stratfordnj.org
Director of Ordinance and Property

Council Meetings
December 7th at 6:30 p.m. Council Conference Room
December 12th at 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM
December 17th at 1:00 p.m. via ZOOM

2024 Reorganization Meeting
January 4th at 6:30 p.m. Council Chambers
January 9th at 6:30 p.m via ZOOM
February 8th at 6:30 p.m. Council Conference Room
February 13th at 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM
March 7th at 6:30 p.m. Council Conference Room
March 12th at 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM

Council Conference Room is located at the
Public Safety Building 315 Union Avenue

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSINGS
November 23rd and 24th offices will be closed for Thanksgiving
December 25th offices will be closed for Christmas (December 22nd Closing at 12:30)
January 1st the offices will be closed for New Years Day (December 29th Closing at 12:30)

SCHOOLS
Parkview School - 123 Parkview Road  783-2876
Samuel S. Yellin School - 111 Warwick Road  783-1094
John Paul II Regional School - 55 Warwick Road  783-3088
Under the Sun Learning Center - 44 Berlin Avenue  783-9715
Sterling High School (Somerdale) - 501 S. Warwick Road  784-1333
Little Praisers Preschool - 120 Union Avenue  435-5353

ORGANIZATIONS
Get Your Event Featured in the Stratford Times Next Issue
is scheduled for March. Contact the Boro Office at
856-783-0600 Email - info@stratfordnj.org
all submissions must be received by
February 28th to be included in the next issue.