NEW BEGINNINGS

October 2025

Volume 34, Issue 5

Bloodmobile Event – Give the Gift of Life!
Thursday, October 9th

11:30 AM – 5:00 PM

St Joseph Catholic Church



410 County Ave. Stratton, Nebraska

Roll up your sleeve and make a difference! The Bloodmobile is coming to Stratton, and your donation could save lives.

Walk-ins Welcome

Prefer to book ahead? Call Marilyn Lorens at 308-276-2335

Or reserve your spot online! Go to redcrossblood.org for easy to follow instructions.

Whether you're a first-time donor or a seasoned lifesaver, we'd love to see you there. Every drop counts!

Stratton Community Fund Drive – Join Us in Giving Back!

It's that time of year again! The **annual Stratton Community Fund Drive** is underway, and we're calling on your support to help sustain the many organizations that make our community thrive.

Why Give? Your donation directly benefits local groups and services that support Stratton. Every contribution—big or small—makes an impact.

How to Donate:

- Volunteers will be going door-to-door
- Or you may receive a donation packet by mail
- Didn't get a notice? No problem! You can still contribute by mailing your donation to:

Stratton Community Fund Drive P.O. Box 42 Stratton, NE 69043

Let's come together to strengthen our community. Thank you for your generosity!

--A description of each organization benefitting from the Fund Drive may be found on the following page——









Go Big for STRATTON

JOIN US FOR THE SOUTHWEST NEBRASKA BIG GIVE ON NOVEMBER 6!









Stop by the Stratton Giving Station for food, fun and community spirit!

d When:

Thursday, November 6, 2025

9 Where:

Grandview Event Center

Soup Meal served starting at 5:00 PM

O Power Hour: 5:00–6:00 PM

Every dollar counts—and during our POWER HOUR your gift to the Stratton Community Foundation Fund will be matched!



SOUTHWEST NEBRASKA

Big Give



LEARN HOW TO GIVE AND GET INVOLVED

www.nebcommfound.org/give/ stratton-community-foundation-fund

Stratton Community Foundation Fund PO Box 5, Stratton, NE 69043 E-mail: StrattonCFF1994@gmail.com

Help us reach our \$20,000 goal to support future community improvement projects!

The advisory committee meets on the third Sunday of each month to review grant applications and evaluate the long term goals for the fund. Please share your visions for the future of our Stratton community with a fund advisory committee member to help us shape Stratton's future.

FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Dustin Ladenburger, Chair Rachel Lorens, Secretary Ann Sutton, Treasurer Brad Forch Lisa Fox Austin Jensen Brian Kollmorgen Jen Moore Sandy Renfro Terra Riggs Ashley Stehno

Stratton Community Foundation Fund is an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation.

Stratton Community Fund Drive Descriptions

Stratton Recreation Club – Your contributions help the Rec Club host the beloved Annual Stratton Days Festival – A tradition proudly upheld for over 50 years!

Stratton Ambulance & Fire – Funds support our dedicated volunteer emergency services, ensuring top-quality care and rapid response for the Stratton community.

Stratton Area Chamber of Commerce – The Stratton Area Chamber of Commerce is a local service-based organization. They host several events in Stratton during the year. Your contributions through the Community Fund Drive help fund the following events. Thank you for your continued support. The donations received are vital to support these community activities: Easter Egg Hunt, Stratton Days Events: Kids Games in the Park, 5K Fun Run, Parade, Most Improved Yard Contest. Christmas Events: Soup Supper, Lighting Contest and Caring Tree.

Community Crisis Fund – Set aside to respond to emergencies affecting Stratton residents – most recently used to support victims of the recent flood.

Freedom Go-Getters 4-H Club - Funds empower youth through hands-on learning, leadership and community service opportunities.

Stratton Food Assistance Program – Your support helps provide Christmas Baskets to families in need, spreading warmth and hope during the holiday season.

Lakeview Lodge – Funds help maintain this nonprofit lodge and campsite near Stratton, offering a venue for weddings, family reunions, graduations, and other activities.

It's funny, isn't it?

How a man can wake up before the sun and still fall behind on time. How he'll spend thousands of dollars on seeds, fuel, and machines –

just to put food on someone else's table.

He fights weeds, weather, and worry - all before lunch. While most people are frustrated by five minutes of traffic, he's already been cussed out by three drivers just for moving

his tractor down the road.

He battles drought with prayer,

floods with faith,

and every day with back-breaking sweat.

Still... he doesn't quit.

Coyotes take the chickens.

Deer wipe out the corn.

Equipment breaks, prices drop, and the bank still wants its payment.



Why?

Because somewhere, a child will open a lunchbox. A family will gather around dinner.

A stranger will wear cotton that grew in his fields.

And even if they never know his name,

he'll sleep at night knowing he gave the world something real.

Not likes. Not followers.

But life - grown in dirt, watered with sacrifice, and harvested with heart.

So here's to the farmers.

To the quiet hands that feed loud cities.

To the unseen, the unthanked, the unshaken.

May God bless every farmer out there—

Not just for what they grow,

but for the way they keep this world turning.

Stratton - A Great Place to Grow

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK: UNDERSTANDING THE TWO COMMUNITY FUNDS

Stratton is fortunate to have two groups working to make giving easier and more impactful. Each has a unique purpose, but both share the same goal: to strengthen our town for generations to

Here is a comparison of the Stratton Community Fund Drive and the Stratton Community Foundation Fund.

Stratton Community Fund Drive

The Stratton Community Fund Drive is a yearly campaign that meets immediate local needs. Committee members reach out by mail or door-to-door to gather contributions.

This fund has helped provide emergency support for families after floods, accidents, or unexpected medical travel expenses, as well as community projects like Christmas food baskets for those in need. Because there are no applications or paperwork, neighbors can step in and fill a need right away.

Several local groups also depend on the Fund Drive each year to keep their programs running or make important improvements. In many ways, it helps cover the things we all value but may not fund directly in our own budgets - keeping Stratton a strong and thriving village.

HOW IT WORKS

- Annual drive: fund-raising campaign is by mail and door-to-door
- · Supports needs: local organizations and families in need are supported financially
- · Distribution of funds: Funds to designated organizations are distributed right after the campaign
- Impact: An average of \$14,000 given each year to local organizations and families in need

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Julie Bernt Rich Bernt

Janet Felt Joyce Forch

Sandy Renfro

Stratton Community Foundation Fund

The Stratton Community Foundation Fund (SCFF), founded over 30 years ago by local leaders, builds charitable giving, grows an unrestricted endowment, and awards grants to local projects. Through the Hunt Matching Challenge (Nebraska Community Foundation), SCFF secured gifts that are permanently invested to support Stratton.

Each year, an endowment payout provides scholarships and grants, while the principal continues to grow—ensuring lasting support for our community for generations.

HOW IT WORKS

- Donor Contributions: Gifts can be made by cash, check, securities, IRA RMDs. stocks, ag commodities, or online.
- Grant Funding Applications: Local organizations can fill out the application to apply for funding reviewed monthly.
- Impact: Over \$120,000 has been granted to local charitable projects.
- Scholarships: \$34,000 has been awarded to 47 students (traditional & nontraditional) since 2009.
- · Forever Funds: Our unrestricted endowment ensures lasting support for future generations.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Brad Forch Lisa Fox Austin Jensen

Dustin Ladenburger Rachel Lorens Jen Moore Brian Kollmorgen Sandy Renfro

Terra Riggs Ashley Stehno Ann Sutton

Your Contribution Matters

Whether you give through the Stratton Community Fund Drive or the Stratton Community Foundation Fund, your support makes a difference. Every gift—large or small —helps strengthen our community, now and for generations to come. Together, these funds ensure Stratton remains a vibrant, welcoming place to live, work, and grow.

Chamber Thank you...

Thank you to everyone who came out and made Stratton Days 2025 a success! A special thank you to all the fabulous volunteers, without your hours of hard work, none of this would be possible. We had an incredible turnout this year. The sheer number of events that were planned and executed by various groups, businesses, and individuals is a testament to the dedication and love people have for Stratton. We are always looking for more volunteers, if you are interested in making 2026 a year to remember, reach out to a member of the Stratton Area Chamber or Stratton Recreation Club.

Stratton Area Chamber of Commerce

Talent Show Thank you...

It was another year of good entertainment at the Talent Show with many familiar performers as well as some new talent. The 16 and Under Category was won by Molly Spargo, an 8th grader at DCS who sang *Second Hand Rose*. The second-place winner was the sister duet by Joslyn and Rachel Kollmorgen singing *Travelin' Soldier* to their own guitar accompaniment. Grace Stahly played a lovely piano arrangement of *It is Well* for third place.

Larry Hubl was the winner of the Adult Category, singing the crowd pleaser, Sweet Caroline. Lexi Windecker placed second singing a contemporary selection, All Eyes on You. The third-place winner was Steve Johnson picking and signing a gospel piece by Vince Gill.

Thank you, Stratton-You DO have talent. \$310 was donated to the Stratton Fire and Ambulance department.

Winners:

Mud Bog:

ATV: Michael McDermott Class A: Hunter Still Class B: Keisha Lepper Class C: John Wilkinshaw Class D: Michael Bohme Outlaw: Rebecca Fell

Parade:

1st: MNB Bank 2nd: Joyce Forch 3rd: Jen & Rick Moore

Talent Show:

16 and Under

1st: Molly Spargo

2nd: Joslyn & Rachel Kollmorgen

3rd: Grace Stahly

17 and Up

1st: Larry Hubl

2nd: Lexi Windecker

3rd: Steve Johnson

Quilt:

Jana Sides

Rec Club Raffles:

FB Tickets: Kay Voss VB Tickets: Julia Diehl

Beef Bundle: Dave Thornbrugh

Cow Patty Bingo: Rich Kollmorgen

Most Improved Yard:

Andrew Webster

Pie Contest:

Shaila Latta

Johnny Whisker's

Archery Contest:

Lu Rae Fenske

















FREE BREAKFAST



Every Thursday At Grandview Events Center Stratton

7:30-9:00

All Welcome

Community Meal



from **5:30 to 7:00 PM** at the **Grandview Events Center in Stratton**. It's a great chance to connect with neighbors, share a warm meal, and enjoy the spirit of togetherness.

All Welcome!!

Thank You for Supporting the Swimming Pool Bake Sale!

The Stratton Swimming Pool group would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our recent bake sale at the Stratton Days vendors in the park. With your generosity, we raised **\$445.92**!

These funds are the first step toward our goal of installing **safe**, **accessible stairs** at the pool. Currently, swimmers rely on ladders to enter and exit the water, but stairs will make it much easier and safer for people of all ages to enjoy the pool. The total cost of the project is approximately **\$7,000**, and with your help, we are on our way!

We plan to host more fundraisers in the near future and hope to have the stairs in place for the **2026 pool season**. Every dollar raised brings us closer to making this important improvement a reality.

If you would like to make a donation toward the pool stairs project, contributions can be sent to: **Stratton Swimming Pool Fund**

c/o Village of Stratton 411 Bailey, Suite 1 PO Box 332 Stratton, NE 69043

Thank you again for your support of the Stratton Swimming Pool—we couldn't do it without you!

Saturday, December 6,2025 2:00—4:00 p.m.



Christian Union will be hosting a cookie exchange gathering for women.

Please bring 3 dozen cookies, candies or bars—homemade or purchased.

Bag your cookies 6 to a bag. You will take 3 dozen cookies home—6 bags

Additional snacks to share will also be welcome.

Please feel free to bring friends!

We also will be having an Ugly Christmas Sweater contest for those who would like to participate. We will vote for the winner and a prize awarded for best ugly Christmas sweater

PLEASE NOTE: The cookie exchange will take place instead of prayer breakfast in December.

Stratton Public Library News October 2025

HOURS: MONDAY 12-7 THURSDAY 12-5

<u>New Adult Selections:</u> Welcome to Beach Town by Wiggs, Dancing with Octopus by Harding, Private Berlin & Private London by Patterson, At the Foot of the Mountain by Honerkamp, Against Medical Advice by Patterson, The Illustrated History of the Vietnam War by Beckett, A Life Wild and Perilous by Utley, Man of Mine by Dailey, Until We Touch & Shelter in a Soldier's Arms by Mallery, Faithful Place by Frenc

Easy Selections: See You Someday Soon

Lonely Book Reading Incentive is going strong at the Stratton Public Library. Come in and check out a book that has been feeling very lonely on the shelf and hasn't been checked out for some time. The more books you make happy the better chance you have of being the next winner!

Coffee and Conversation is happening at the Stratton Public Library every Thursday from 2:00-4:00. Stop in for a few minutes or stay the whole time.

STRATTON MEDICAL **CLINIC HOURS Central Time**

Mon, Wed, Fri-Closed Tuesday-10:30 am-12:00 pm

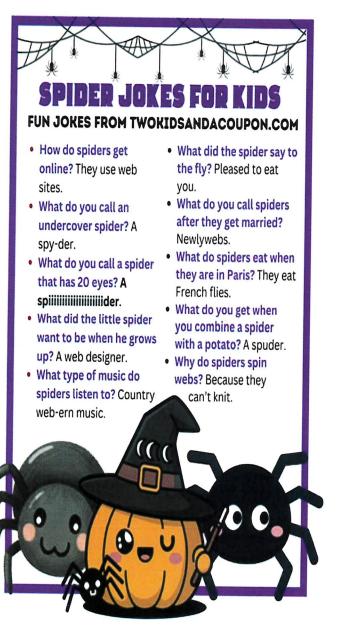
1:00 pm- 4:30 pm

Thursday-2:00 pm-4:30 pm

Sat-Sun-Closed

Call for an appointment—(308) 423-2151

Walk-ins Welcome!



New Beginnings is published monthly by the Community Builders Academy. In order to assure a timely issue, articles must be submitted by the 25th of the month to Julie Bernt. Articles may be emailed to rbernt@gpcom.net. or mailed to MNB Bank, PO Box 367, Stratton, NE 69043. Colored copies of New Beginnings are included on the Village of Stratton website. Thank you to this month's donors:

- Bill Condon
- Stratton Community Foundation
- Mel Campbell
- Brad & Tami Jesch Earl & Marjie Denio
- Bill Brott
- Anonymous



Saturday Night from 7-9 Bring your family friendly games to

> Grandview Events Center Join the Fun

Everyone is welcome!

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Galatians 4: 16; "Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?" I recently heard a pastor use this scripture in a sermon. Paul asked this question as he wrote this letter to the church in Galatia, (Modern day Turkey). As Jesus spoke the truth the Sanhedrin, (Jewish Government) plotted to kill Him. As we go down through the ages of history, we see that wherever and whenever the truth of the gospel is spoken, there is violence against it. The reason being, there is no winning argument against it, so, if you hear the truth and don't want to accept it, anger arises and, in some cases, violence erupts.

We often hear people pray for peace or as Psalm 122 says pray for the peace of Jerusalem and I often wonder if these people realize that the only true peace that exists is in the hearts of those that have accepted Jesus as their Savior. Without that, fear crops up everywhere and there is no peace.

Many of the young people of our time are beginning to find truth and salvation in Jesus and are starting to realize the junk that the left has been feeding them is just that, junk. They are finding that there is no peace in drugs and drinking, no peace in promiscuous sex and abortion or in the trans gender and homosexual movement. Thank God for that. I look at some of the things our colleges and universities are feeding our kids, and I wonder why parents keep sending their precious children there to be brainwashed. Colleges need to be carefully checked out before you send your kids there. There are far more liberal professors than conservative. Taking a quick look on the internet it's about 65% liberal to 15% conservative.

I hadn't followed Charlie Kirk at Turning Point and was amazed at what he had accomplished at the college level. Because of him a lot more people know about conservative politics and a lot more follow Jesus. We all need to be more outspoken about our faith in Jesus, and we need to share His love for others. We are at a point in our nation where we are going to have to take a stand for freedom and a stand for Christianity. Silence is the quickest road to destruction, but if you share Jesus with your neighbor and they receive Him as their Savior you have had a part in their eternal destiny.

Richard Stahly

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

November

8:00 am



Host to be determined at October

Breakfast

Women's Cookie Exchange

December 6-2:00-4:00

Christian Union Church—Stratton



Church Worship Service Schedule

Comm. United Methodist Church

10:00 a.m.

Church Services

Christian Union Church

9:30 a.m.

Sunday School

10:45 a.m.

Church Services

St. Joseph Catholic Church

8:30 a.m.

Mass

Church of Christ

10:30 a.m.

Sunday School

11:00 a.m.

Church Services

Southwest Nebraska Holiness Church

10:30 a.m.

Sunday School

11:30 a.m.

Church Services

Grandview
Community
Events
Center

SENIOR OPPORTUNITIES

FROGS

Fitness Reaching Older Generation



Tuesdays & Fridays



10-11 am

Provides up beat exercise combining joint friendly activites to raise your heartrate and move and stretch your body

Handicap
Parking Available
on North side of
Building



Balance and Mobility



Every Thursday



10-11 am

Provides exercises
both chair-based and
standing targeted
toward improving
balance and mobility

BAM session will also include some acupressure points and hand yoga positions!

DUNDY COUNTY CANCER FUND



- Piglee Wiglee don't miss coming to golf course to get your favorite BBQ, or call ahead 1- 2 wks in advance to order extra for the week ahead. You'll thank yourself later.
- Impact Closet will be there to help you step into fall fashion for the cooler days ahead.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6 BENKELMAN GOLF COURSE 33998 Old Hwy 34

WIN AMAZING PRIZES

Must be 18 to enter the drawings.

Pre-Registration begins at 5 PM (MT) for those that didn't purchase a T-shirt. The cost to enter the drawings is \$30. Participants that purchased a T-shirt will automatically be entered into drawings without needing to pre-register. We are excited to have Tammi Cawthra, APRN join us as our guest speaker at 5:15 PM MT. The walk begins at 5:30 PM MT. Drawings to follow the walk.

All kids get in FREE! Although they won't be included in the drawings we still have a fun evening planned for them as well with a special treat. Youth shirts can be ordered to help the cause.

Cancer patients and survivors that are attending the walk are asked to contact Tawnia. DCH has a special gift for you.



If you would still like to order a t-shirt contact Tawnia Nichols at 308-423-7007 or email tnichols@dchbenkelman.com.

T-shirts can still be ordered but not guaranteed in time for the walk.



You'll love this T-shirt long after the walk.

Make checks payable to: Dundy County Cancer Fund

Youth/Adult T-shirts: XS, S, M, L, XL \$30

XXL to 5X \$33

T-Shirt colors:

Light Pink, Light Blue, Black & Orange



HOSPITAL & QUALITY HEALTHCARE





FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL (308) 423-2204

Prizes - We have some incredible drawings that will be given.

Denver Zoo passes Will Bills in \$100 gift card- fun center in North Platte.

2 Cornhusker Football tickets

Passes to the Homestead Pumpkin Patch in North Platte.

Passes to the Homestead Pumpkin Patch in North Platte Family passes to the Lincoln's Children Zoo Big Apple \$100 gift card- fun center in Kearney NE Family pass to Lost in Fun Kids fun center in Lincoln, NE and much more.

Dundy County Hospital

Physical Therapy Services

Quality, Tradition, Progress



Recover faster.

Move with confidence.

OUR FACILITY:

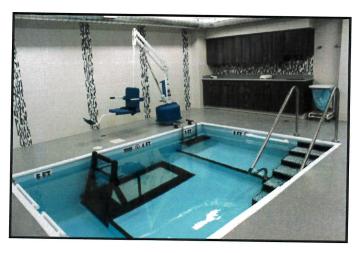
- Spacious gym for movement and balance training
- Unweighted walking track
- Aerobic & strength training equipment
- Spine and joint care
- Care for chronic wounds, swelling & lymphedema
- Treatment for dizziness and headaches
- Recovery from post-hospitalization weakness
- Post Operative an injury rehabilitation

BENEFITS OF AQUATIC THERAPY

- State-of-the-art aquatic facility
- Warm water therapy pool with multiple depths
- Under water treadmill
- Safe entry/exit by steps or mechanical chairlift
- Aquatic therapy sessions in confidential setting
- Safe environment supervised by our expert team
- Low impact exercise
- Regain strength and mobility
- Regain balance
- Stroke recovery

OUR TEAM:

Trevor Horner, PT, Director Aubrey Peckham, PT, DPT Larissa Gerhartz, PTA Jennifer Fries, PTA Malinda Westfahl, PTA Ramona Wiest, Receptionist



Raile Family Therapy Pool



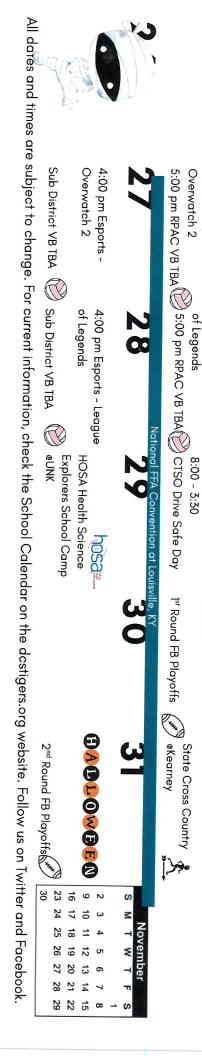
Spacious gym for strength and balance training.

Get back to doing what you love with renewed strength and mobility.

Call 308-423-7013 today. YOUR RECOVERY STARTS HERE.







12:07 pm MPCC 4:00 pm Esports -

4:00 pm Esports - League

Inservice

NO SCHOOL - Teacher

NO SCHOOL - Fall Break