

NEW BEGINNINGS

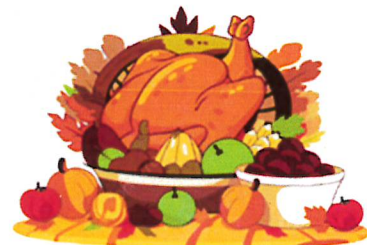
November 2025

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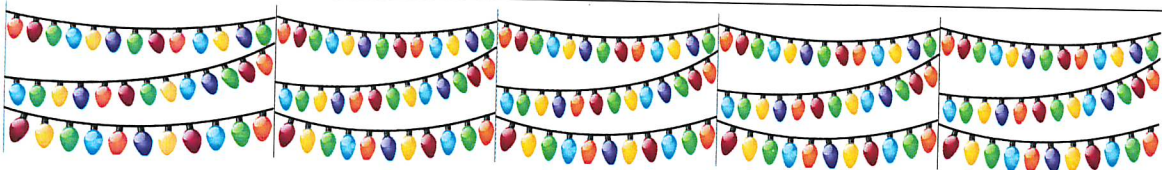
COMMUNITY DINNER

Join Us for a Community Turkey Dinner! Enjoy a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings—plus pumpkin pie for dessert.

Wednesday, November 19th 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM



NEW EVENT THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

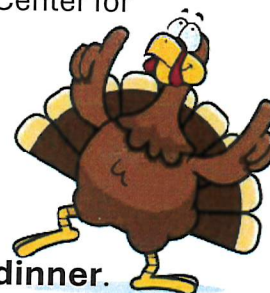
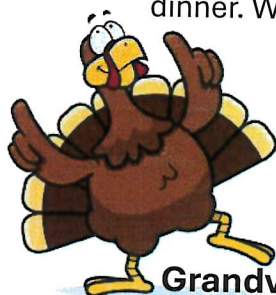


Stratton Christmas Lighting Ceremony

December 2nd 6:00pm Grandview Events Center

Start the Christmas Season off with the Stratton Area Chamber for a ceremony to light up the water tower! Enjoy cookies and cocoa while we gather with friends and family to enjoy the lights. Mrs. Claus will be on site to provide entertainment.

It is that time of year again, our homes filled with friends and family near and far congregating, laughing, joking and just having fun. Let us take the work out of your family dinner. We would like you to join us at Grandview Community & Events Center for Thanksgiving dinner



Sunday November 23rd, 2025,

Grandview Community & Events Center for Thanksgiving dinner.

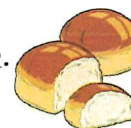
MENU:

Turkey, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Yams, Green Beans, Rolls and Dessert.

Ladies, we know you LOVE to share your homemade goodies please bring us your favorite Thanksgiving dessert and/or dinner rolls.



Desserts/Dinner rolls should be dropped off at Grandview by 10:00 a.m.



What we need know:

Count the number of your family and friends who would like to join us and have that number called in by **THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20TH NO LATER THAN 3:00 P.M.** central time. Reservations may be made by calling either **308-276-2282 OR 308-276-2661** Please also let us know what dessert that you will (if you are planning to) bring.



Serving:

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

How much:

FREE-WILL DONATION

(money goes towards parking lot improvements and meal supplies)



Card Shower Honoring Geri Downing

A card shower is requested for Geri Downing by her children, Jason and Ryan, in honor of her 70th birthday on **November 17, 2025**. Geri was a longtime and former resident of Stratton and would enjoy hearing from friends and family near and far as she celebrates this special milestone.



Cards and well wishes may be sent to her at:

4 Elm Drive, Kearney, NE 68845



The Eden Cemetery in rural Hitchcock County is once again participating in Wreaths Across America to be conducted in mid-December. The public is encouraged to attend, weather permitting. You may participate by sponsoring one or Veterans wreaths. To sponsor a wreath a \$15.00 contribution may be made to:

Eden Cemetery
c/o Andrea Biberstein, Treasurer
34977 Road 723
Stratton, Nebraska 69043

Thank you,
Dennis Egle, President

Cookie exchange

Saturday, December 6, 2025

2:00—4:00 p.m.

Christian Union Church 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.



CHRISTMAS CARING TREE

Please help make someone's Christmas special. Nominations for the Caring Tree are being accepted at MNB Bank.

To make a nomination you may contact Shaila at 308-276-2166 by **November 18th.**



THE HITCHCOCK COUNTY MUSEUM IS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS.

IF INTERESTED IN HELPING OUT, OUR ENROLLMENT COUPON IS HERE FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

LINDA ZAHL CELL: 308-340-9851 HOME: 308-276-2672

ROBERTA LOESCHER CELL: 402-200-0042

If you would like to enroll as a member of the Hitchcock County Historical Society and help preserve the history and heritage of Hitchcock County, please complete this enrollment coupon and return with a check payable to: *Hitchcock County Historical Society, PO Box 511, Trenton, NE 69044*

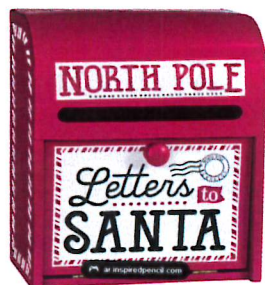
\$10 Yearly Membership OR \$100 Lifetime Membership *Amount Enclosed \$* _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip Code _____

Find us on Facebook at "Hitchcock County Historical Society"



HEY KIDS!!!

It's that time of the year!! Santa would love
To hear from you. You can drop your letters
In Santa's mailbox at MNB Bank from
December 1st – December 18th



Stratton Days was again a wonderful event. Thanks to all the volunteers who made the activities possible. I was the lucky winner of the Nebraska Girl's Volleyball ticket, sponsored by the Stratton Rec Club. Thank you to Mike Schultz (son of Carol Burk Schultz) who donated the two tickets. The game will be attended by my daughter and her husband who are loyal Nebraska volleyball fans. Again, thank you all for a fun day! We are blessed to live in such a special community.



Julia Diehl

Looking for a Match

Building on Our Legacy, Together



As much as we may try to forget it, the year 2020 had a dramatic effect on our Dundy County community and our nation as a whole. This trying year tested our resilience—navigating shortages, adapting to new safety measures, and working hand-in-hand with state and federal partners to protect our patients and staff during an unprecedented health crisis.

That same year also marked a triumph of collaboration: the completion of the Kenneth C. Stout Therapy Addition and the Raile Family Therapy Pool. These facilities, funded entirely through generous donations to the Dundy County Hospital Foundation, continue to serve hundreds of patients each year—helping those recovering from surgery, managing chronic conditions, or rebuilding strength after cardiac events. This achievement was possible because of you—our community.

Why the Foundation?

The Foundation's 501(c)(3) status allows donors to make tax-deductible contributions, ensuring your dollars stay local and directly enhance healthcare services right here in Dundy County rather than sending your hard-earned money to the government where it is typically redistributed to eastern Nebraska.

While the therapy project is complete, the need for investment never ends. Recently, we installed a new cardiac rehabilitation system, and more opportunities for growth are on the horizon. Dundy County Hospital is experiencing a "growth spurt," expanding services to better serve you and your family. To keep pace, the Foundation must rebuild the resources that made past successes possible.

Here's an exciting opportunity:

The Collinsville Community Foundation has pledged **\$25,000**—if we can match it. Our goal is to raise at least **\$50,000**, and ideally **\$75,000**, through this year-end campaign. Every dollar you give will be doubled (or even tripled) in impact.

Will you join us?

Your gift—large or small—will help ensure that Dundy County Hospital remains strong, innovative, and ready to meet the healthcare needs of our community for generations to come.

To donate or learn more, please email dchfoundation@dchbenkelman.com or call 308-889-5003.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. Together, we can keep exceptional care close to home.

Warm regards,

Rita Jones

President, Dundy County Hospital Foundation Board




Dundy County Hospital's Business Office
and Quality Healthcare Clinics is

CLOSED

🍁 Thursday, November 27
🍁 Friday, November, 28
in observation of Thanksgiving.

*From all of us at Dundy County Hospital and
Quality Healthcare Clinics, we wish you a safe,
joyful, and gratitude-filled Thanksgiving. We are
thankful for the trust and support of our community
and surrounding area each and every day.*

QHC in Benkelman will be open
Saturday, November 29 from
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM (MT)

**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
- Richard & Sharon Polson
- Earl & Margie Denio
- Byron & Roberta Loescher
- Dundy County Hospital & Foundation
- Kerry and Cindy Krutsinger



Saturday Night from 7-9

Bring your family friendly games
to

Grandview Events Center

Join the Fun

Everyone is welcome!

Blessing Box

GIVE WHAT YOU CAN—TAKE WHAT YOU NEED

There is a new blessing box located in front of the Stratton Church of Christ. Anyone who would like to contribute or who is in need is welcome.

•What is a blessing box?

"A Blessing Box, sometimes also referred to as a "Little Free Pantry," is a community-supported outdoor pantry that operates on a "take what you need, leave what you can" system. This concept is similar to "little free libraries," but instead of books, they offer essential items like non-perishable food, personal care items, and toiletries."

•What can I donate?

- Non-perishable food items: Canned goods, rice, pasta, cereal, nuts, seeds, granola bars, instant oatmeal packets, dried fruit, cake mixes, soup mixes, shelf-stable milk.
- Baby essentials: Baby food, diapers, wipes, baby formula.
- Hygiene items: Toilet paper, feminine products, soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant.
- Warm clothing (in winter): Socks, mittens, hats, hand warmers, blankets.

•I'd like to donate, but the pantry is full.

If the pantry is full, items may be dropped off in the church lobby, just inside the front doors.

Thanksgiving is a reminder to pause, breathe,
and give thanks for the abundance in our lives



Stratton Public Library News November 2025

HOURS: MONDAY 12-7 THURSDAY 12-5

New Adult Selections: Bridgerton 7 books in the series by **Julia Quinn**, Forever Across the Marsh by **Jeff Pearson**, You Shouldn't Have Come Here by **Jeneva Rose**, Runaway by **Robyn Carr**, Dying for Chocolate by **Diane Mott Davidson**, Mother May I by **Joshilyn Jackson**, The Hunted by **Rachel Lee**, Last Prophecy by **Jon Land**, The Worst Time by **Timothy Egan**, Lethal Prey by **John Sandford**, End of Story by **A.J.Finn**, Oh My Stars by **Ethan Joella**, Something in the Water by **Catherine Steadman**, Den of Iniquity by **J.A. Jance**, To Die For by **David Baldacci**, This Is Why We Lied by **Karn Slaughter**, Rage by **Linda Castillo**, The Things We Keep by **Sally Hepworth**, and One Day Closer by **Lorinda Stewart**.

Juvenile Selections: Coyote Autumn by Bill Wallace, Jumper by Melanie Crowder

Easy Selections: Thunder Cake, Alexander and the Terrible No Good Very Bad Day, It Looked Like Spilled Milk, Cat's Meow, Shoelaces, Poky and Bess, Pajama Time, Red House Tree House Little Bitty Brown Mouse

Lonely Book Reading Incentive: Thanks to all that helped make some Lonely Books happy. Patrons checked out books that have been feeling very lonely on the shelf and hadn't been checked out for some time.

The winner of our Lonely Books challenge is **Susan Riggs**! Please stop in at the Library for your prize and of course to check out another book.

Paperback Book Sale is happening at the library

Now!

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.

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Proverbs 22: 6, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Deuteronomy 6: 5-7, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up."

We all know that the first scripture is not always hard and fast, because we have seen kids walk away from the best of families and never come back, but they have a lot better chance when they are taught righteousness. Our children and grandchildren need to see us pray and need to hear us talk about Jesus and see us with a Bible in our hands once in a while. We need to teach about the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, about Christianity and not so much about our denominations. They need to be taught that there are some cults out there and they need to know how to recognize them. If they are sent off to college they need to know about how the liberals will pressure them to walk away from their beliefs. I know that after I left home I didn't do so well and it took quite a few years for God to get me back on the right track. A good summer vacation Bible school, hearing prayer at the table growing up, a praying Grandma, MYF and church all had an influence on my life. Your children will be your biggest contribution that you will make to this life. You do the best you can and then you let them go and you pray for them and if they ask for your advice you hope that what you tell them is the right information and leave the rest to Jesus.

It is encouraging to see a large number of young people in our nation seeking out the Lord. Our Bible sales are up 40 percent or more. May this awakening to the things of God continue to grow.

Richard Stahly

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

December 6th

8:00 am

--HOSTED BY--

Church of Christ

Women's Prayer Breakfast

November 15th

9:00-10:00

Church of Christ

All Women Welcome

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

CATIUDAV

A decorative vertical border featuring a black vine with loops, adorned with colorful autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and green. The leaves are stylized with black outlines and veins, and are arranged in a repeating pattern along the vine.

HOSA WEEK	
2	3
4	5
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18	19
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22	23
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30	

FOUNDATION NEWS

WELCOME NEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Stratton Community Foundation Fund is guided and managed by a dedicated volunteer Advisory Committee. This group of community volunteers oversees how funds are distributed to support local projects and initiatives that strengthen our community.

We're pleased to welcome three new members who have recently joined the committee:

- Brad Forch
- Austin Jensen
- Brian Kollmorgen

Thank you for your willingness to serve and help continue the important work of the Foundation!

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

RECENT GRANTS

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Stratton Community Foundation Fund recently awarded a grant to help bring Christmas lights to the Stratton water tower this holiday season.

Thanks to the generosity of donors and the efforts of local volunteers, the lights will add festive cheer and community spirit to Stratton throughout the holiday season.

MEET FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER: ★ ANN SUTTON

Hometown: Stratton, Nebraska | **Occupation:** Owner, Stratton Auto Parts



Born and raised in Stratton, Ann proudly describes herself as "a lifer." She loves the quiet, slower pace of life and the way neighbors look out for one another in the Stratton community.

As a member of the Stratton Community Foundation Fund (SCFF), Ann values the opportunity to make a lasting difference. "The SCFF allows me to do something significant for the Stratton community that will last well into the future," she says.

Ann is especially proud of helping secure the Hunt Challenge Grant, which gave a tremendous boost to the fund, and of supporting scholarships that encourage students to stay or return to Stratton. She believes the unrestricted endowment is vital because it gives the community flexibility to meet changing needs. Ann encourages others to give—no matter the size of the gift—because every contribution directly impacts Stratton's future.

Looking ahead, Ann is excited about the community's willingness to try new things and face change with an open mind. "Working together to solve problems and be part of the discussion is key to Stratton's future," she says. *Thank you, Ann, for your dedication to Stratton's future!*

ABOUT THE STRATTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FUND COMMITTEE

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.

Stratton Community Foundation Fund
PO Box 5, Stratton, NE 69043
StrattonCFF1994@gmail.com

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