



Sturgis Wire

March, 2004

Volume 4, Issue 1

Sturges-Young Auditorium Preparing for 50th Anniversary Celebration! May 15, 2005

October 13, 1952 ...

City receives \$300,000 legacy from the estate of Emma D. Young who requested that the money be used for the benefit of the people of the community. The newly appointed auditorium board decides to locate the Auditorium on the Northeast corner of North Nottawa and West Streets and architect A.M. Strauss, Inc. is chosen to design the preliminary plans.

October of 1953 ...

Additional funds for the auditorium building project become available via a trust fund established by two sisters, Stella Sturges-Taylor and Clara Sturges.

March 4, 1954 ...

Contractor bids were opened on and construction began shortly thereafter. The general construction was done by Miller Davis Company of Kalamazoo. Fordec-Kemerly Electric and Frank Casselman, both of Sturgis, were two other companies involved in the original building project.

May 15, 1955 ...

A public dedication and Open House was held. Mr. R.H. Shepherd was the first manager of The Sturges-Young Civic Center & Auditorium.

Today ...

Since its opening, the people of Sturgis and its surrounding communities have visited the Auditorium for banquets, meetings and special events. This past year, we hosted 793 events and serviced over 64,000 people.

Because of three women's generosity and futuristic thinking, the Sturges-Young Civic Center & Auditorium came to exist. And, because of the continual support of the citizens of this community, we continue to grow, expand, and improve.

The Upcoming Year...

Over the course of the next year, the Auditorium will be going forward with several capital improvement projects in order to enhance this gem of our community. These projects will include installing new seats and making other needed repairs and updates within the facility. Several committees have been formed to organize fund raising efforts and the celebration itself. The Sturges-Young Auditorium has been an important part of the Sturgis community for many years now, the next year will be a great time to show your appreciation by offering your support. For information contact the Sturges-Young auditorium at 651.8541.

Spring ... changing Seasons, Services, Surroundings ...

It has been increasingly obvious lately that Spring is just around the corner. The rains of early Michigan Springs have come and the air has already started to warm a little. Soon enough, flowers will be in bloom, trees will bud, and we will see change all over our beautiful town.

The weather and the plants won't be the only things changing in Sturgis this Spring. For instance, starting May 1, 2004, the City of Sturgis will be providing full ambulance service to southern St. Joseph County. The new ambulances have already been delivered and the City is excited to jump forward into this new territory.



Pictured above - Mike Picker, EMS Director Scott Hopkins, Fire Chief Mike Houck, Ashley Lanning, Dave Charles

Also, this Spring, changes will be taking place within the Sturgis Police Department. The Police station will no longer house a dispatch center. By the end of April, Sturgis will be serviced by Central Dispatch out of Centreville. This means when you call 911, dispatchers in Centreville will answer your call. The change should not result in a reduction in service or response time. By using Central Dispatch, the City aims to eliminate a duplicated service, which means a better overall use of your tax dollars. In addition, the county's 911 center is better equipped to handle larger scale emergencies.

As Spring approaches and we start to see more warm and sunny days, we should take some time to help make Sturgis even more beautiful. It doesn't take very much time at all to plant some flowers around your home, or do the little home improvement projects you have been planning to do for years. By doing these projects, you can not only feel proud of your home, but you can also help your entire neighborhood feel good about itself. Take a look at the article on Home Improvement Grants in this edition of the Wire. With some help from the City, your projects can be even easier than you ever thought. If we can all start to take some pride in our town and work to make it even more beautiful, there is no limit to what we can accomplish.

We invite you to let the Sturgis Wire know by E-mail (wire@ci.sturgis.mi.us) of any local topics that you would like to learn more about in future issues.

STURGIS PUBLIC LIBRARY



Video News from the Sturgis Public Library

The Spring Video Sale will be held at the Sturgis Public Library on Saturday, March 27, from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Previously viewed DVD's will be on sale for \$5.00, and VHS movies for just \$3.00. This sale is open to the public. Are you thinking about expanding your home video library, or maybe doing some early Christmas shopping? Stop by and pick up some movies. Please shop early for the best selection.

The library has an ever-growing selection of current release movies on DVD. Rental movies check out for 3 days for just \$1.00 each.

The library is offering a red-hot deal during National Library Week (April 19th-24th, 2004): "Rent 1 DVD, get 1 Free."

Come in and help celebrate National Library Week and pick out the latest movies.

Hot titles arriving soon:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Brother Bear | • House of Sand and Fog | • Mona Lisa Smile |
| • Cheaper by the Dozen | • Kill Bill Part I | • School of Rock |
| • Dr. Seuss's the Cat in the Hat | • Looney Tunes Back in Action | • Something's Gotta Give |
| • Duplex | • Magdalene Sisters | • Texas Chainsaw Massacre |
| • Gothika | • Master & Commander | |
| • Haunted Mansion | • Matrix Revolutions | |

National Library Week April 19th – 24th

Celebrate National Library Week with us.

- * Free coffee and cookies every morning
- * Free balloons for the kids
- * Vote in the Ugliest Lamp Contest*
- * Sign the "I Love My Library" banner
- * Fine amnesty with a donation of cat or dog food
- * Rent 1 DVD, get 1 Free

*Ugliest Lamp Contest

Enter the Ugliest Lamp Contest by April 1st. Ugly lamps will be on display the month of April and voted on by the public. Think you have the ugliest lamp in all of Sturgis? Enter it and you could win a prize.



Battery Recycling at the Library

Help the environment and recycle your household batteries. Household batteries only may be recycled at the library.



MICHIGAN READS 2004

One State, One Preschool Book Program

Kids all over Michigan will be listening to one book, Barnyard Song,

during National Library Week – April 18th – 24th

Story Times will feature this book and related activities

Two Year Olds – Monday, April 19th at 10 a.m.

Ages three and up – Wednesday, April 21st at 10 a.m.

Come join in the fun!

SUMMER READING SIGN-UP STARTS JUNE 3rd

Babies through Teens

BEGINNING BABY-SITTER CLINIC

June 7th – 11th

Sign up starts in May

6th – 8th Graders

FUN IN APRIL IN THE CHILDREN'S ROOM

EASTER CRAFT

Saturday, April 3rd

Drop in between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.

EASTER STORIES AND AN EGG HUNT

Tuesday, April 6th at 10 a.m.

Ages 8 and under

Don't miss out on this year's 45th Annual Michigan Week Festival!
Downtown Sturgis 2004, sponsored by the Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce
For more information call 651.5758

2004 City of Sturgis Spring Pickup Schedules



LARGE ITEM TRASH PICKUP SCHEDULE



The City's Large Item Trash Pickup typically took place in early June, this year it is going to take place a little earlier. The City is having a spring cleaning to make the town look her best for Michigan Week. The pickup day for residents **NORTH of Chicago Rd. will be May 1st**, and the day for residents located **SOUTH of Chicago Rd. will be May 8th**. On your scheduled day, place the items on the curb in front of your property. The City asks that you do not place any items in the street itself. Also, due to environmental concerns, residents wanting to have items containing freon (refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, etc.) picked up by the City will need to follow specific instructions. These items need to have the freon removed from them before they can be disposed of legally. Residents can go to Camburn Appliance at 411 North Nottawa St. and register their appliances. There will be a \$35 fee per appliance for this service. Upon registering, Camburn Appliance will come to your house and properly remove the freon from the items. They will then put a sticker on the appliance saying the freon has been properly removed. You can then put these items on the curb on your pickup date. **The City WILL NOT pick up any appliance that uses freon that does not have a sticker from Camburn Appliance on it.**



LEAF PICKUP SCHEDULE



Spring is here! It has been a long winter, and everyone is anxious to get outside and get some spring cleanup started. The City of Sturgis leaf schedule will be as follows:

MONDAY APRIL 5th, THE AREA SOUTH OF EAST CHICAGO RD. AND EAST OF SOUTH NOTTAWA ST.

TUESDAY APRIL 6th, THE AREA SOUTH OF WEST CHICAGO RD. AND WEST OF SOUTH NOTTAWA ST.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 7th, THE AREA NORTH OF WEST CHICAGO RD. AND WEST OF NORTH NOTTAWA.

THURSDAY APRIL 8th, THE AREA NORTH OF EAST CHICAGO RD. AND EAST OF NORTH NOTTAWA.

This is a tentative schedule subject to weather conditions.



BRUSH PICKUP SCHEDULE



The Citywide brush pick-up will begin on **Monday April 5th, 2004**. The City of Sturgis provides brush pick-up to its residents the **first Monday of each month, April to October**. Please have brush neatly stacked in the terrace area, away from trees or signs, by 7 a.m. the day of pick-up. It is unlawful to place brush beyond the curb. This monthly pick-up is for **BRUSH ONLY**. Grass clippings, leaves, roots, thorn-bearing branches, tree trunks, stumps and building materials **WILL NOT BE COLLECTED**.

The City compost site on East Fawn River Road is open **Mondays and Thursdays from noon to 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** The compost site accepts brush, grass clippings, wood chips and leaves. Compost material is also available at the site.

← If you have any questions concerning large item trash, leaf, or brush pick up schedules, please call the City of Sturgis Department of Public Services at 651.2879.



HYDRANT FLUSHING SCHEDULE



The City of Sturgis Department of Public Services will maintain the following hydrant flushing schedule. This is a tentative schedule subject to weather conditions:

TUESDAY, APRIL 20th, THE AREA SOUTH OF EAST CHICAGO ROAD AND EAST OF SOUTH NOTTAWA STREET.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21st, SOUTH OF WEST CHICAGO ROAD AND WEST OF SOUTH NOTTAWA STREET.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22nd, NORTH OF EAST CHICAGO ROAD AND EAST OF NORTH NOTTAWA STREET.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23rd, NORTH OF WEST CHICAGO ROAD AND WEST OF NORTH NOTTAWA STREET TO N. CENTERVILLE RD.

Should any water discoloration occur, let water run until clear.

← If you have any questions concerning hydrant flushing please call the City of Sturgis Department of Public Services at 651.2879.

Thoughts on Economic Development ...



Late Breaking Economic Development News the former **Kirsch plant** (877,000 square feet) has been purchased by a developer out of Adrian, Michigan. The developer hopes to subdivide the building into units for manufacturing and distribution. They are looking at closing on the property sometime in April. **In other exciting News** we are pleased to announce that another new manufacturing company will open their doors at our Bogen Road Industrial Park this Spring. **Snow and Ice Properties, Inc.**, based out of Chicago Illinois, will specialize in a snow salt substitute commonly known as ice melt. The 43,000 square foot Sturgis location was chosen due to our easy access to rail, toll road and other geographical needs.

KUDOS for our Recent Plant Expansions:

Vulcan Industries, Penguin LLC, Sturgis Molded and Precision Speed all totaling over 70,000 square feet.

CATCH THESE FACTS:

Sturgis Population – 11,285 (highest population in a 40 mile radius)

Tax rate – 10.82 (unchanged in the last 14 years and lower than any other City around, including Niles, Dowagiac, Three Rivers, Coldwater, Marshall, Hillsdale, Battle Creek, Portage, Kalamazoo)

Lowest Unemployment Rate for any City in a 3 County Region — ours for 2003 = 6% and 5.4% for December (State of Michigan 2003 = 7.2%, Three Rivers for 2003 = 10.5, St. Joseph County 2003 = 7.4%, Coldwater for 2003 = 8%)

News from the Sturgis Neighborhood Program ...

The City of Sturgis Homebuyer Assistance Program

The City of Sturgis currently has a grant to acquire, develop and re-sell *two* single-family homes to income-qualified buyers. The grant funding allows the city to offer qualified homebuyers assistance with their purchase by subsidizing closing cost and down-payment requirements. The city has partnered with the Sturgis Neighborhood Program (SNP) on this program which seeks to provide affordable home buying opportunities for Sturgis families while promoting neighborhood revitalization and stability through pride-in-ownership.

The first of the two properties being offered through this grant is located at 302 N. Lakeview Avenue. Interior improvements currently underway on this property include the installation of a new high-efficiency furnace and water heater, new flooring, new drywall and paint, updated cabinetry and new appliances. Planned exterior improvements include new energy-efficient vinyl windows, vinyl siding, structural garage changes and the addition of low-maintenance landscaping.

This property will be completed and available for sale Spring 2004. For more information about this property or this program, please contact Monica Smith, SNP, at 269.651.4780 or the City of Sturgis' Community Development Department at 269.659.7230.

St. Joseph County Homeowner Assistance Program

Did you know that St. Joseph County has funding available to assist qualified homeowners with repairs and home improvements? Funding is available to all eligible St. Joseph County residents to assist with repairs that will make their homes more livable, energy-efficient, safe and handicap accessible.

Homeowners can use the program's low-interest loan funds to make repairs to or replace plumbing, electrical and heating systems, roofing, siding, windows and doors, interior/exterior painting, floor coverings, rotting porches and steps, ramps, bathroom conversions, and lead-based paint hazards. All construction improvements are completed by licensed and insured contractors. Lead hazard reduction activities are completed by state-licensed lead abatement contractors.

To take advantage of this great opportunity, call or write to: LouAnn Moord, Program Administrator, at Three Rivers City Hall, 333 W. Michigan Ave., Three Rivers, MI, 49093. Phone: 269.273.1075 Fax: 269.273.3132 (TT for the hearing impaired: 269.467.5501)



Good Landlord Award

The City of Sturgis is now accepting nominations for the
Good Landlord Award!

This award rewards one landlord with a \$1,000 property improvement grant for providing excellent care and upkeep to their rental property.

Nomination forms are available in the Community Development Department in City Hall or on the City's Web Site at www.ci.sturgis.mi.us.

Landlords must be nominated by a respective tenant and all nomination forms must be turned in by March 31, 2004.

City of Sturgis
Department of Community Development
130 N. Nottawa
269.659.7230

CITY OF STURGIS

2004 Home Improvement Grant Program



DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE HOMEOWNERSHIP AND TO IMPROVE STURGIS NEIGHBORHOODS.

Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants must be City of Sturgis residents who own and occupy their homes.

Maximum Grant Amount:

The grant reimbursement will be 50% of the total project cost, up to a maximum of \$1,000. A total of \$20,000 will be awarded for 2004.

Eligible Home Improvement Projects:

Eligible projects include roof replacement, exterior painting, new siding, etc. Projects will be given priority based upon the positive aesthetic impact to the home and surrounding neighborhood.

Applications:

Applications will be available beginning March 1st, 2004 and the application deadline is 5:00 p.m., March 31, 2004. Applications are available at City Hall, Community Development Department or on the City's Website at www.ci.sturgis.mi.us.

Need Info:

Please contact the Community Development Department for more information at 659.7230.



For an Application and Program Guidelines visit the City's Website @ www.ci.sturgis.mi.us.

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A Newsletter Produced
By The

City of Sturgis

For Its Citizens

130 N. Nottawa St.
Sturgis, MI 49091
(269) 651-2321
www.ci.sturgis.mi.us

STURGIS CITY COMMISSION

Mayor Cindy Sunday-Horstman - Precinct 3
Vice-Mayor Joe Haas - Precinct 4
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Commissioner Barb Fisher - Precinct 3
Commissioner Rob Sisson - At-large
Commissioner Karl Littman - Precinct 4
Commissioner David Ludders - Precinct 2
Commissioner Caralee Mayer - Precinct 1
Commissioner Chuck Huber - Precinct 2

The City's Mission is to deliver high-quality services in a professional, efficient and nondiscriminatory manner to its residents and businesses; to continue to strengthen the economy and quality of life; and to ensure that the expression of views by citizens are recognized and responded to by the City.

The Sturgis

Wire

City of Sturgis

CURRENT
RESIDENT

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
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City of



Sturgis

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