



Sturgis Wire

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

March, 2005

Volume 5, Issue 1

Sturges-Young to Celebrate 50 Years

It's hard to believe, but Sturges-Young Civic Center and Auditorium is nearly 50 years old! On May 15, 50 years to the day after the auditorium was originally presented to the people of the City of Sturgis, a rededication ceremony will take place. As the community embarks on this special occasion, here's a look at the auditorium's past and its future:

Making it all possible

On October 13, 1952, Sturgis City Commissioners gratefully received an approximate \$300,000 legacy from the estate of Emma D. Young. It was her wish that the money be used for the benefit of the people of the community, and in particular, for an auditorium.

From there, Mayor Parker appointed an auditorium board of nine members: Flora Kirsch, William Stapleton, Margaret Brunson, Lee Barnell, Robert Pfeiffer, Lawrence Cherrington, Leo Yoder, George Freeman, chairman, and the mayor himself.

These board members decided to locate the auditorium on the northeast corner of North Nottawa and West Streets. Sturgis Public Schools owned two lots at this location which they generously donated to the City of Sturgis in order to facilitate the plan. All other property needed for the project was purchased by the City.

After consulting with civic clubs, local schools, and other organizations regarding the various possible uses of a civic center and auditorium, the board met with several architects, and ultimately chose the firm of A.M Strauss, Inc. to design the preliminary plans. When the initial building plans were estimated to cost \$570,000, almost twice the amount of the bequest, there ensued a lengthy discussion concerning deletions and substitutions. The revised plans reduced the estimated cost to \$470,000, however still \$170,000 too much.

In October of 1953 William Stapleton, the new chairman, reported that additional funds for the auditorium building project would be available via a trust fund established by two sisters, Stella Sturges-Taylor and Clara Sturges. Later an additional \$25,000 was added from the sale of property owned by the late Emma Young.

The contractor bids were opened on March 4, 1954, 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. The remainder of the year was spent by the board in meetings: approving changes; paying contractors; designing the kitchens, theatre, and dining rooms; and establishing the auditorium's policies and rental rates.

R.H. Shepherd was the first manager of Sturges-Young Civic Center and Auditorium. A public dedication and open house was held Sunday, May 15, 1955. And so because of three women's generosity and futuristic thinking Sturges-Young Civic Center and Auditorium came to exist.

Making it last

While Emma Young, Stella Sturges-Taylor and Clara Sturges saw a need for a building like Sturges-Young Civic Center and Auditorium, 50 years later, members of the community are seeing the need for the building to continue for another half a century and beyond.

A 50th anniversary committee has formed in hopes of raising needed funds for renovations at Sturges-Young. The group has hosted a handful of events including dinner/dances and a Kingdom Heirs show in hopes of raising not only funds, but awareness about the facility's capabilities. A seat campaign is also currently underway. Donors of \$200-\$300, depending on the number of seats donated for, will be recognized with a brass nameplate affixed to a seat in the auditorium. The donation will allow for the complete restoration of the seat, plus donors will be remembered by the community for generations to come.

The seat campaign is just one way to contribute to the auditorium's 50th anniversary campaign as several renovations are needed. Approximately \$2.5 million is being sought for renovations including a computerized front sign, a sound system throughout the Civic Center, internet capability in each room, kitchen equipment, parking lot resurfacing and expansion, an HVAC system and downstairs renovations.

Donations of any amount may be made by sending a check payable to Sturges-Young Auditorium, 201 N. Nottawa, Sturgis, MI 49091. Those making contributions can know they have played a leading role in the success of preserving Sturges-Young. Remember all donations to the Sturges-Young Civic Center & Auditorium are tax deductible. Look forward to future fundraising events as well as several plans are currently in the works.

For further information contact Sturges-Young Civic Center and Auditorium at 651-8541.



This oil painting of Sturges-Young Auditorium was created by area artist W.J. Aikens.

Upcoming Events at Sturges-Young Auditorium

March

- 11 - Lori Sims, pianist, 8 p.m.
- 19 - Lou Rawls, 8 p.m.
- 27 - Easter brunch, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

April

- 5 - Travelogue, "America's Amazing Places," 7:30 p.m.
- 16 - Bowfire, "a total violin experience," 8 p.m.
- 21 - Eastwood Singers concert, 7:30 p.m.

May

- 5 - Sturgis High School Spring Band Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- 8 - Mother's Day Brunch, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 13 - Sturgis Wind Symphony Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- 15 - Auditorium Rededication Ceremony, time to be announced
- 19 - Sturgis High School Orchestra Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- 24 - Sturgis Middle School Band Concert, 7:30 p.m.

(Sturges-Young Auditorium offers a pre-show or post-show dinner for most performances. For information and/or reservations call 651-8541.)

* Open to the general public weekly for Sunday & Friday lunches, along with Friday dinners.

Library News

Hey kids! Sturgis Public Library has some special events planned for you! Here's a look at what's coming up:

- * The library will host an Easter event featuring stories and an egg hunt at 10 a.m. on March 16. Don't miss this opportunity for a great time!
- * Then celebrate National Library Week with your friends at the Sturgis Public Library with a DVD, video and audio sale at 9:30 a.m.-noon on April 9. A reception for the artist who painted the mural in the children's room will follow on April 16. The reception features painting classes, crafts and refreshments.
- * This summer, discover dragons during the Sturgis Public Library's Summer Reading Program June 10 through July 29. Read and earn prizes and enjoy story times and special programs. There's something for children of all ages.

For information contact the library at 659-7224.



SPRING 2005 HYDRANT FLUSHING SCHEDULE

The City of Sturgis Department of Public Services will be flushing hydrants in April according to the following schedule. This schedule is tentative and subject to weather conditions.



TUESDAY, APRIL 19th - THE AREA SOUTH OF EAST CHICAGO ROAD AND EAST OF SOUTH NOTTAWA STREET.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20th - THE AREA SOUTH OF WEST CHICAGO ROAD AND WEST OF SOUTH NOTTAWA STREET.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21st - THE AREA NORTH OF EAST CHICAGO ROAD AND EAST OF NORTH NOTTAWA STREET.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22nd - THE AREA NORTH OF WEST CHICAGO ROAD AND WEST OF NORTH NOTTAWA STREET TO NORTH CENTERVILLE ROAD.

Should any water discoloration occur, let water run until clear. Any questions may be directed to the Department of Public Services at 651-2879.

Spring Clean-up Planned

Have a large item to get rid of? You're in luck. The City's annual Large Item Spring Clean-up is just around the corner.

In preparation for Michigan Week activities, the pickup date for residents NORTH of Chicago Road will take place Saturday, April 30, while the pickup date for residents located SOUTH of Chicago Road will be Saturday, May 7. On the date scheduled for your area, place items near the curb in front of your property. The City asks that residents do not place any items in the street itself.

Also, due to environmental concerns, residents wishing to dispose of any item containing Freon (refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, etc.) will need to follow specific instructions. These items must have the Freon removed by a certified professional before they can be disposed of legally. Residents can call or stop in at Camburn Appliance, 411 N. Nottawa St., and register their appliances. There will be a \$35 fee per appliance for the service. After registering, Camburn Appliance will come to your home and remove the Freon from the item or items. They will then put a sticker on the appliance stating the Freon has been properly removed. You may then place these items near the curb for disposal on the appropriate pickup date. The City WILL NOT pick up any appliance containing Freon that does not have a Camburn Appliance sticker showing workers the Freon has been properly disposed of.

Again this year the DPS will be picking up used tires, however due to costs for disposal the department will charge a fee of \$2 per tire for automobile sized tires and \$5 per tire for semi truck sized tires. Citizens wishing to have tires picked up should pre-pay for the service at the City Clerk's office before their pickup date. Please remember tires must be separated from the wheel.

For further information, contact the DPS at 651-2879.

Tree Work Underway ... Request Your Plantings Today

City crews are currently in the process of trimming 135 trees within the City limits and have removed 32 trees. Line clearance for the Electric Department is also underway with cutting to begin in the coming month. Trees marked with a dot are scheduled to be trimmed. Those marked with an ex are to be removed. Property owners affected by removals will be contacted before removal takes place. Crews are also taking requests for spring terrace tree plantings. Last fall they planted more than 250 trees in the city terrace, or the area between the street and sidewalk. To request a tree planting or for further information, contact the Electric Department at 651-2879.

City of Sturgis 2005 Home Improvement Grant Program

DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE HOME OWNERSHIP AND 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. \$20,000 will be awarded in 2005.

Eligible Home Improvement Projects: Exterior alterations and maintenance such as roof replacement, exterior painting, new siding, etc.

Applications are currently available at City Hall, Community Development Department, or on the City's web site at www.ci.sturgis.mi.us. The application deadline has been extended to 5:00 p.m. on March 31, 2005.

Need Information? Please Contact the Community Development Department at 659-7230.

City of Sturgis Good Landlord Award

The City of Sturgis is now accepting nominations for the 2005 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 located 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 returned by March 31, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.

City of Sturgis Community Development Department
130 N. Nottawa Street
269-659-7230

Did Someone Say 'Party'?

With spring soon approaching, why not plan a block party in your neighborhood? DPS crews will deliver barricades so you and your neighbors can partially close your street for the event. What a great way to meet your neighbors!

Block parties, however, are only permissible if 51 percent or more of residents are in favor of the party and may not be permitted on a street deemed unsuitable by City Staff for such activity.

Block party applications are available at City Hall, 130 N. Nottawa St. Applications must be submitted at least seven working days before the block party date, complete with resident signatures.

For information contact the City at 651-2321.



New Hires

Amanda Harper is the newest employee of the Sturgis Police Department. She began her job as an officer Feb. 7 having come from the Ontawa Township/Edwardsburg Police Department where she was an officer for the past four years.



Amanda Harper

Harper received a Bachelor's Degree in criminal justice from Western Michigan University and completed a police tracking program at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. She is originally from Three Rivers but currently resides in White Pigeon. She is married to husband, Richard, and is mother to son, Dillon.

Harper is currently working towards completing her field training program for the department. She had been hoping to become an officer for the Sturgis Police Department for quite awhile and is excited to be part of the team.



VIP Program Nears Completion; Volunteers Sought

The Sturgis Police and Community Development Departments have announced the completion of preliminary preparations for the Volunteers in Policing (VIP) Program.

An office area was recently refurbished with the help of labor supplied by St. Joseph County Jail trustees and police personnel along with supplies and furnishings donated by Barnell's Quality Carpets, DeBoard Chiropractic Clinic and International Paper. Additional businesses have also come forward and offered assistance with office furniture.

Jim Cook has recently been selected as the volunteer coordinator and applicants will be interviewed before an oral board. Following the selection of volunteers, a police liaison officer and the volunteer coordinator will run a brief training session to launch the program to an active unit. Sturgis personnel involved in the program are projecting the unit to be activated in March. Any citizens who have an interest in being a volunteer and feel they have the time and skills to help in this community project are encouraged to pick up an application during business hours at the Sturgis Police Department.

Sturgis City Subdivision Phase II

The City of Sturgis currently has 26 lots available in Phase II of its subdivision. The subdivision enjoys a peaceful location with meandering streets and cul-de-sacs that provide privacy and character. The City's subdivision is situated just south of Eastwood Elementary between Franks and Lakeview Avenues. Anyone interested in purchasing a lot within the Sturgis City Subdivision can contact Todd Campbell, Assistant City Manager, at City Hall, (269) 651-2321, during normal business hours. Also check out the City's second MSHDA home rehabilitation project located at 608 George Street. Contact Monica Smith (Sturgis Neighborhood Program) at 651-4780 for more information.

Hospital Set to Break Ground



Mark your calendars! Sturgis Hospital is set to move ahead with a \$15 million project that will mean a new surgery department and birthing center and renovations to parts of the building's existing structure. A groundbreaking ceremony is planned for 3 p.m., March 18. Don't miss this history-in-the-making event!



Employees at Ross Labs were named grand champions at the Doyle Community Center's annual Corporate Challenge in January. Also placing in the top six, in order by ranking, were Sturgis Public Schools, City of Sturgis, Midwest Tool & Cutlery, Sturgis Hospital and Penguin, LLC.

Happy 
St. Patrick's Day

Chamber News

Michigan Week Events Planned

"Michigan on the Move" is the theme for this year's Michigan Week, the 51st annual week and the 46th annual celebration in Sturgis. Michigan Week is scheduled for May 20-27. Some highlights are as follows:

- * Last year's downtown festival location was a hit and will continue again this year with rides moving onto Chicago Road. U.S. 12 will be closed from Clay to Nottawa from 6 p.m. Thursday to 10 p.m. Sunday. The main activities will begin during the afternoon of Friday, May 20, and continue through Sunday, May 22. Saturday's parade will remain on Chicago Road as well, ending at Nottawa Street.
- * Also returning is a Friday evening dinner at Sturges-Young Civic Center and Auditorium followed by a Sturgis Wind Symphony performance and the presentation of this year's Citizens of the Year.
- * The Michigan Week Dance scheduled for Saturday night at the Armory is sure to be a hit with the much requested band "Montage" performing.
- * Other activities planned include merchant booths, food vendors, a run/walk, on-stage entertainment, a car show, and Binder Park Zoo programs. Activities and entertainment will be geared toward seniors Friday while Sunday's events will lean toward a more spiritual side.



Together we can make it happen!

That's the theme that drove our community to fund and build Trojan Timbers!

We need your help again as we update the City of Sturgis Parks and Recreation 5 year plan. We have surveys that can be picked up at the Doyle Community Center, Sturgis Public Library, Sturges Young Auditorium, and City Hall.

Please take a moment and complete this short survey as your input is valuable to us in creating this plan. Return the completed survey to the Doyle Community Center and you'll receive a free pass (day pass or aerobic pass).

Surveys must be returned by May 1st.

Help Keep Sturgis Beautiful!

Do your part to help keep Sturgis beautiful. Please obey the following City of Sturgis ordinances and report any violations of those ordinances to Code Enforcement Officer Rick L. Sweitzer at 659-7215.

It is the responsibility of the owner and occupant of any lot, land or premises within the corporate limits of the City to:

- * not park any vehicle in the front yard of the property unless in an approved area.
- * not park any vehicle on the property in an unapproved area when selling a vehicle.
- * not allow any vehicle to remain parked or stored on the property that is unlicensed or inoperable.
- * cut and remove, or cause to be cut and removed, all weeds or plant growth in excess of ten inches.
- * remove any garbage or rubbish that has been stored, collected, kept or placed on the property for more than twenty-four (24) hours.



Notes on Brush and Grass Clippings

Brush and/or grass clippings should be removed from the street to eliminate traffic hazards and storm water collection problems. Brush may not be placed in the street, but can be placed on the terrace (generally the area between the pavement and sidewalk). This should be done no sooner than 48 hours before brush pickup which begins on the Monday morning of the first full week of each month from April to October. Grass clippings and brush can also be taken to the compost site during the months of April through October. The compost site is open noon-7:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays.



If you think Sturges-Young Auditorium's Sunday breakfast buffet is a hit, just wait 'til you see what they've come up with now!

The auditorium is currently offering Friday plated lunches and dinners featuring a variety of meal choices from \$5 to \$15.

Lunches are held 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and dinners are 6-9 p.m.

Sunday breakfast buffets will continue to be held 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at a cost of \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for children ages 8-12, \$1.75 for children 3-7, and free for children under 3.

Hope to see you there!



Citizen Boards & Commission Listing

City Commission	7:30 p.m., 2nd & 4th Wed., Wiesloch Raum, City Hall
Airport Advisory Committee	Called by the Chair of the Board
Auditorium Board	5:30 p.m., 1st Thur. prior to first City Commission meeting of the month, Sturges-Young Civic Center & Auditorium
Board of Review	Two days in March
Construction Board of Appeals	Whenever appeals are made
Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors	8:00 a.m., 3rd Wed., City Hall Conf. Room
Doyle Community Center Board of Directors	4:00 p.m., 1st Mon., Doyle Center
Election Commission	When called
Employee Retirement System Board of Trustees	Quarterly, 2nd Wed. of 2nd Month every quarter
Hospital Board of Trustees	5:30 p.m., 4th Mon., Women's Club
Library Board of Directors	4:30 p.m., 1st Tues., Library
Parks & Cemetery Board	9:00 a.m., 2nd Tues., City Hall
Planning Board	7:30 p.m., 3rd Tues., City Hall
Sister City Committee	7:00 p.m., 4th Thurs., City Hall
Sturgis Housing Commission	9:00 a.m., 4th Tues., Maple Towers
Zoning Board of Appeals	4:00 p.m., 2nd & 4th Tues., City Hall

For more information about Boards and Commissions, please call the City Clerk's Office at (269) 651-2321.

Kids Corner

Hey Kids!

Want to see how a City of Sturgis facility operates? Ask your teacher about the possibility of touring one of several City buildings including the Sturgis Police Department, Sturgis Fire Department, Diesel Generation Plant, Waste Water Treatment Plant and more. Teachers, or other interested groups, please contact the City at 651-2321 for more information.

Also for Kids!

Check out our new interactive Parks map at www.ci.sturgis.mi.us. Click on a park and view photos of it. It's easy and fun!



Julio Muñoz was the lucky winner of a recent pizza party at Sturgis Fire Department. His name was chosen randomly from the names of several children who had responded to a contest featured in the December issue of the Sturgis Wire. Children were asked to locate 10 city buildings on a map of Sturgis. Julio enjoyed his party with 15 friends and family members.

Commissioners Outline Goals; Roads a Top Priority

Sturgis City Commissioners adopted their 2005-2006 goals during a recent planning session and once again named streets as one of their top priorities. Last year they spent more on streets than any other year in recent history when they spent \$211,000. In order to continue a street repair program the City Commission has considered a number of funding options; a recent study shows that Sturgis needs a minimum of \$12 million in street repairs. In 2002, a millage was placed on the ballot, but failed to pass. Additionally, each year the budget is reviewed to see if additional funding could be allocated for street repair. Most recently, at its annual planning retreat, the City Commission directed City staff to consider bonding to fund a large project that will make a significant impact on our street system. City staff is currently evaluating a street repair project bond. For a complete listing of commissioners' goals for 2005-2006, visit the city's website at www.ci.sturgis.mi.us.

STURGIS CITY COMMISSION

Mayor P. Joseph Haas - Precinct 4
 Vice-Mayor Robert Sisson - At Large
 Commissioner Lee Austermann - Precinct 1
 Commissioner Michael Brew - Precinct 2
 Commissioner Barbara Fisher - Precinct 3
 Commissioner Chuck Huber - Precinct 2
 Commissioner Karl Littman - Precinct 4
 Commissioner Caralee Mayer - Precinct 1
 Vacancy - Precinct 3

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 By The

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For Its Citizens

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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

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 RESIDENT

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