



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

June, 2005

Volume 5, Issue 2

City moves forward with Public Services facility; cleans up industrial site at the same time



On May 5th, 2005, the City of Sturgis completed the purchase of the abandoned Ram Products property on N. Centreville Road just east of Kirsch Municipal Airport.

Completing the purchase of the property ends an acquisition process that began two years ago in an effort to provide a new, centralized home for a number of departments which include: Electric Department field operations, Water and Sewer systems maintenance operations, Street and Green space maintenance operations, Vehicle maintenance

operations, and Geographical Information System & City Engineering departments.

Up until this point, these operations have been housed in separate facilities throughout the City. The purchase and resulting centralized housing of this segment of the workforce will not only allow for increased efficiencies regarding use and coordination, but will also allow for the replacement of the current substandard facility that houses the street and electric operations.

The purchase and renovation of the facility is being funded by the Electric fund as it will be the largest occupant. The other operations of the City housed in the facility will pay rent based on the space they occupy.

Two other goals were accomplished by the purchase of the approximately 33 acre site which includes existing buildings. As part of the purchase, the City obtained needed right-of-way for a possible future extension of Haines Blvd. The extension would allow north bound truck traffic to be rerouted out of the downtown area. Additionally, the purchase allows the City to renovate and return to a useful purpose an industrial site that has remained vacant and in an ever-increasing state of disrepair for the past 15 years. The situation has only been worsened by the facility's location, a prominent site that represents the Sturgis community.

The City has been planning for a new, replacement home for its Public Services operations for at least 15 years. In 1999, a professional engineering firm was hired to assist in planning and designing a new facility. At that time the estimated cost was approximately \$4.5 million for a new facility that was approximately two-thirds the size of the one the City has now purchased. A new facility would have also meant less land.

Not wanting to invest that much money, the City discontinued the project. Once the Ram Products project is completed, it is anticipated that the City will have spent less than half of the proposed cost of a new facility.

Library News

Discover Dragons ...



THIS SUMMER at the Sturgis Public Library

Summer Preschool Story Times

June 28 - July 27

Tuesdays & Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

Summer Reading Clubs

Read and Earn Prizes

Babies - Teens

June 10 - July 29

Registration begins June 10

Sturgis Public Library

255 North St.

269-659-7224

For Seniors

Upcoming Events at Sturgis Senior Center

For information on any of the following programs, contact the Sturgis Senior Center at 651-6057 or the Commission on Aging office at (269) 279-8083.

June

- 13 - Massage, by appointment only, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 14 - Health Screening, by appointment only, 10 a.m.-noon
- 15 - Medicare Prescription Assistance, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 16 - Medication Management, 11-11:45 a.m.
- 23 - Physical Fitness Program, 11:15 a.m.
- 29 - Medicare Prescription Assistance, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

July

- 7 - Diabetic Supplements, 11:15-11:45 a.m.
- 11 - Massage, by appointment only, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 13 - Medicare Prescription Assistance, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 14 - Advance Directives, 11:15 a.m.
- 21 - Bring a Friend, 11:15-11:45 a.m.
- 21 - Fresh Garden Selections, 11:15-11:45 a.m.
- 25 - "Where the Red Fern Grows," movie, 10 a.m.

Also at Sturgis Senior Center:

- Bingo, every Monday and Thursday, 12:30 p.m.
- Euchre, every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:30 a.m.
- Blood Pressure, every Thursday, 11 a.m.
- Pinochle Club, every Friday, 9:30 a.m.

Help Keep Sturgis Beautiful

Do your part to help keep Sturgis beautiful. 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 duty 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.
- * not post any garage sale signs on the terrace or on utility poles.
- * 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 through October. Grass clippings and brush can also be taken to the compost site through October. The compost site is open noon-7:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays.

Sturges-Young Civic Center & Auditorium

Celebrating 50 years (1955-2005)

SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS TO RENOVATE THE FACILITY

Make donations of any amount ... or take advantage

of our seat campaign !



- \$300 - 1 seat, engraved nameplate
- \$500 - 2 seats, 2 engraved nameplates
- \$200 each - 3 or more seats, engraved nameplates

Donations may be made to: SYCCA or Sturgis Foundation
204 N. Nottawa
Sturgis, MI 49091

Call 269-651-8541 or 800-778-7437 for more information.

New Hires



Laura Rogers

Laura Rogers was promoted to executive director of the Sturgis Housing Commission May 23. She had worked as administrative assistant for the commission since Aug. 18, 2003.

As executive director, Rogers' duties include overseeing the daily duties of running the office at Maple Towers Apartments and reporting to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Rogers is wife to husband Mark and mother to son Taylor, 12, and daughter Kaitlynn, 8. She resides in Coldwater.



Kevin Brockway

Kevin Brockway is the newest member of the Sturgis Fire Department. He was hired as a paramedic March 9. Brockway has worked as a paramedic for the past eight years, having previously worked for LifeCare Ambulance in

Branch County.

Brockway is husband to wife Nicole and father to nearly two-year-old son Rylan. He resides in Quincy. Brockway says he enjoys the Sturgis community and its people. He looks forward to continuing to work with the department.



Police Department Celebrates Michigan Week

Youth Services Officer Matt Allen helps a rider during the Sturgis Police Department's annual bike rodeo. The department has hosted the event for several years during Michigan Week and this year's turnout was excellent, according to Allen. The rodeo consists of a bike inspection, bike helmet giveaway, obstacle course, and bike registrations. Special thanks to Sturgis Youth and Family for supplying the helmets and Sturgis Lions Club for their help fitting helmets.

Sturgis Now Has "VIPS"

In the coming months, residents of Sturgis will be meeting a new breed of City worker: the VIPS (Volunteers in Police Services). These volunteer workers have been carefully screened and trained to assist in many details of day to day city and police operations. Their mission is to promote improved quality of life for the citizens of Sturgis by providing Police and Community Development Department services with a volunteer workforce. They are committed to building strong partnerships with our community. They may also become involved in special projects and community events.

VIPS is open to local citizens. If you are interested in becoming a part of this new program, or you would like to help support it through donations, please contact Jim Cook, VIPS Coordinator at 269-659-7287 or 269-651-5386, or Luis Rosado, Police Liaison at the Sturgis Police Department, 269-659-7260.



Doyle Notes

Upcoming programs at Doyle Community Center

For information on any of the following programs, contact the City of Sturgis Recreation Department at 659-8110.

Tae Kwon Do, ages 10-adult

Mondays and Thursdays, 7:15-8:45 p.m., June 23-September 1.

Tae Kwon Do, ages 4-adult

Tuesdays, 6:30-8 p.m., August 2-September 6.

Extreme Boxing, ages 10-adult

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

June 14-July 7 and July 12-August 4.

Cheer America, ages 4-15

Thursdays, 5:30-8:30 p.m., June 16-August 4.

Inter-City Tennis

As in the past, Sturgis will be part of the Southwestern Michigan Inter-City Tennis League. Matches will be played with other towns or clubs on Fridays beginning in late June. Practices will be held 12:30-2 p.m. Wednesdays. All members of Inter-City will be required to be members of the USTA. The cost to join is \$15 per person which includes enrollment in Inter-City, USTA membership, an annual subscription to TENNIS & USTA Magazine, discounts on merchandise and apparel and more. For more information on the USTA visit www.usta.com.

Summer Tennis Camp

A variety of tennis classes for all ages will be held at Augspurger Tennis Courts June 20-July 7, July 11-28 and August 1-11. For information on classes, visit the Doyle Community Center today, or call 659-8110. Sign up for all three sessions by June 17 and pay a one-time discounted fee!



The City and SNP Partner to Help Homebuyers and Neighborhoods

The City of Sturgis recently completed renovation of a two-bedroom residential property at 608 George Street with grant funding from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA). The grant allowed the city to purchase, develop and re-sell two single-family homes to income-qualified homebuyers. In addition, grant funding can be used to assist the homebuyer(s) with down-payment and closing cost assistance with their purchase.

The first of the two renovated properties, located at 302 N. Lakeview Street, was sold in September of 2004 to first-time homebuyers. Like the property at 302 N. Lakeview Street, the

home at 608 George Street received improvements including the installation of new furnace and water heating systems, energy-efficient vinyl windows, new drywall, paint, vinyl siding, flooring, low-maintenance perennial landscaping, a deck and a new roof. The home is now for sale and available for purchase by a qualified applicant(s).

The city partnered with the Sturgis Neighborhood Program (SNP) on the grant program which seeks to provide affordable home buying opportunities for families and individuals while promoting neighborhood revitalization and stability through pride-in-ownership.

If you are interested in the home at 608 George Street or in finding out more about homeowner assistance and improvement programs, please contact Monica Smith, SNP, at 269-651-4780 or the City of Sturgis' Community Development Department at 269-659-7230.



STURGIS Word Puzzle

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N | A | G | I | H | C | I | M | X | M |
| Y | S | I | G | R | U | T | S | U | E |
| P | A | R | A | D | E | Z | I | C | N |
| L | D | U | D | D | B | R | D | O | E |
| E | A | S | T | W | O | O | D | N | L |
| Z | K | J | S | T | W | Y | J | G | O |
| N | H | R | I | D | A | E | L | R | R |
| E | A | D | A | K | L | N | X | E | E |
| W | U | K | Z | P | L | I | H | S | J |
| A | L | I | B | R | A | R | Y | S | V |

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| AUDITORIUM | CONGRESS | DOYLE |
| EASTWOOD | JEROLENE | LIBRARY |
| MICHIGAN | PARADE | PARK |
| STURGIS | WALL | WENZEL |

Need-to-Know Numbers at the City of Sturgis

Sturgis Police-Fire-Ambulance (emergency) . . . 911
 Sturgis Police Department (non-emergency) 651-3231
 Sturgis Fire Department (non-emergency) . 659-7257
 Central Dispatch (non-emergency) 467-4195

City Offices 651-2321
 City Maintenance Building 651-2879
 Cemeteries 659-7245
 Diesel Generation Plant 651-3682
 Doyle Community Center 659-8110
 Electric Department 659-7204
 Hydro Plant 467-4117
 Industrial Development 659-7233
 Meter Department 651-8636
 Parks and Recreation Department 659-8110
 Sturges-Young Civic Center & Auditorium 651-8541
 Sturgis Hospital 651-7824
 Sturgis Public Library 659-7224
 Wastewater Treatment Plant 651-6520



Salute to Volunteerism

A Message from Mayor Joseph Haas

Recently, our community completed yet another successful Michigan Week celebration. As always, the reason for this successful celebration was because of the countless number of volunteers who gave of their time for each of the Michigan Week events. Sturgis has always been blessed with citizens who are willing to step up and help out whenever and wherever needed. During our Michigan Week celebration, we got to honor some of these very special citizens. Jack Kirsch and Marcia Arend were most deservedly recognized as our Citizens of the Year for their countless contributions to our community. In addition, Ned Good, Scot Jefferies, Karen Stephens and Rachael Sutton were chosen as our 2005 Volunteers of the Year for their unselfish giving of their time and talent to various organizations and boards. Each of these individuals should be inspirations to us all. A community is only strong and successful if its citizens are willing to give of themselves. It isn't just a cute saying when we say Sturgis is Where Success is a Habit. It is an accurate depiction of our community for the reason that, for our citizens, volunteering is a habit.

This commitment to volunteerism will be needed even more as we proceed into the future. As we all know, the fiscal situation in our State is at a crossroads. Partially because of our slumping economy, but just as much because we in Michigan have decided that we are going to operate our State government on fewer taxes, a decision I think we can all agree with. However, this decision will also have consequences because it will mean fewer monies coming to our community. As a result, a number of the services and facilities that we have grown so accustomed to are in jeopardy. The only way that we will be able to insure their continued existence is through increasing our local taxes, or more preferably through the use of volunteers. I urge every citizen in our great City, as well as the surrounding area, to give of their time as much as possible.

Our community is lucky enough to have five different service clubs (Exchange, Eastside Kiwanis, Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary) who are always looking for new members. These service clubs already have projects that they support that help our community, but with more members, hopefully they will be ready to take on even more projects. In addition to these great service clubs, we have countless organizations to serve our community, which include (but are certainly not limited to) the Friends of the Library, the Bridge Builders, the Sturgis Neighborhood Program and our numerous youth clubs, leagues and activities. All of these organizations are in need of volunteers, and as our community looks to them for even more support in the upcoming years, this need for volunteers will be even more imminent.

If being involved with an organization is not your "cup of tea", then maybe you would rather form a neighborhood watch program or a group to help clean up and maintain our community parks. The important thing to remember is that what you volunteer for isn't as important as the fact that you get out and actually volunteer.

So to all of the citizens of Sturgis and the surrounding area, I am asking for your help; your community needs you. Decide what you care about most in our community, or decide where there is the most need, and volunteer your time and talents to help. The continued success of our community depends upon it.

Introducing ... The Sturgis Hospital Foundation Discount Card



Your support goes toward special projects like ...

- Building a new birthing center
- Building new operating/recovery rooms
- Replacing furnishings in patient rooms
- Renovating/updating medical/surgical/critical care unit
- Purchasing new medical equipment for x-ray and nuclear medicine.

Cards are available at the following locations:

Sturgis Hospital Admitting Office
Miller's Super Valu
Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce
Century Bank & Trust
Longstreet Furniture
La Sierra

Only \$25

Spend a little ... Save a lot ...
Support the cause!

Sturgis Hospital
916 Myrtle Avenue
Sturgis, MI 49091
269-651-7824

By participating in the discount card program area businesses and citizens commit to helping Sturgis Hospital raise funds for its special projects and ensure our success. We extend a big Thank You to all area merchants and citizens!



Sturgis celebrates Cinco de Mayo

Sturgis celebrated Cinco de Mayo for the first time in recent years Saturday, May 7, at Oaklawn Park. Hosted by the Community Bridge Builders, the event was a success with approximately 1,000 people attending. In fact, event organizers are already looking forward to next year's celebration. Anyone wishing to join the Bridge Builders' efforts is invited to contact Michael Maldonado at druid1547@earthlink.net or to attend any of the group's meetings. Bridge Builders meet at 7 p.m. each first Tuesday of the month at Great Lakes Chocolate Company in downtown Sturgis.



**Ribs on the Runway
Sunday, July 3rd
at the Kirsch Municipal Airport**

5:00 PM TO MIDNIGHT

**Ribs, Bands, Kids' Activities,
Beer Tent & Fireworks**

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By The

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For Its Citizens

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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 Ken Malone - Precinct 3
Commissioner Caralee Mayer - Precinct 1

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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