



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

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From the City Manager's Desk

I would like to thank the Sturgis community for the warm welcome that I have received returning to the City of Sturgis as city manager. It is truly special to come back to a place where one is greeted by familiar faces.

Upon returning to Sturgis I am struck with the tremendous resources and opportunities available within the community. Having spent time away I have gained a greater appreciation for Sturgis as a quality place to live and work. I see opportunity and growth possible as a continuation of Sturgis' legacy of success.

Like most other communities in Michigan, Sturgis faces significant challenges. The Michigan economy lags behind the rest of the nation, which has undoubtedly affected the City's ability to maintain services. Because revenues from the State of Michigan have declined dramatically in recent years, local governments are forced to make difficult choices. I view this as an opportunity to gain understanding of the services that residents desire based on their willingness to pay.

As city manager, my priority is that the City of Sturgis be a steward of good government, acknowledging that the decisions made impact not only citizens today but also well into the future. Our job as City leaders is to improve Sturgis, delivering it to the future in a better condition than we received it.

Please feel free to contact me at 659-7222.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Hughes
City Manager

2006 Michigan Department of Transportation U.S. 12 Reconstruction & Downtown Streetscape Project

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will be commencing their U.S.12 reconstruction & Downtown Streetscape Project in Sturgis beginning in April 2006. The proposed completion date for the extensive project is November 2006. MDOT will be partnering with the City of Sturgis for the downtown streetscape and water main replacement portions of the project.

The reconstruction portion of the project includes removal and complete rebuilding of U.S. 12 (Chicago Road) from Centerville Road east to Franks Avenue. The downtown streetscape segment of the project involves work behind the curbs such as replacement of existing sidewalk with new sidewalk that includes decorative brick designs, planting areas at various locations downtown, existing hanging baskets and new landscaped traffic islands.

The streetscape portion of the project includes the construction of three traffic islands located at Pleasant & North, Jefferson and Monroe. There will also be a fourth traffic island constructed just east of the downtown area between Jean and Michigan as part of the total project.

Lastly, North Monroe will be redeveloped to allow two-way traffic with a drop-off mailbox island located in the middle of the roadway accessible to south bound traffic only. The boundaries of the streetscape segment of the project are the railroad tracks on the west to Monroe on the east. The water main portion of the U.S.12 project includes the installation of a 12-inch water main pipe between Nottawa and Lakeview, which will improve the distribution system and fire protection for the immediate area.

MDOT will be starting on the north half of U.S.12 and leaving the south half open for two-way traffic. Once the north half of the project is completed, MDOT will re-route traffic to the north half while the south half of U.S.12 is worked on. There will be two-way traffic at all times during the project and left hand turns allowed only at signalized intersections. Additionally, MDOT will not allow "wide load" semi-trucks to travel through the construction area during the project. MDOT will temporarily re-route the large trucks around Sturgis.

As you may imagine, it will be a summer filled with confusion and difficulty navigating the U.S.12 corridor in Sturgis. However, City staff will be working with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce, MDOT, and the project's general contractor to ease the burden of the project on business owners along the corridor and those attempting to access the businesses along the route as much as possible. All businesses will continue to be open during the reconstruction project. People wishing to patronize the businesses along the corridor are encouraged to utilize the rear parking lots and rear entrances where available.

This project is much anticipated and will be well worth the difficulties once it is completed. If you have any questions please contact Assistant City Manager Todd Campbell at 659-7234.



Chamber News

From "Rags To Jags"

It has been called the "chance of a lifetime." The Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce's annual raffle has another "whole new look" this fall. That look is a 2003 Jaguar X-Type, rich blue exterior, with a light cashmere leather interior. The car is in mint condition, has low miles, and the Chamber is sure you would look great driving away in this dream vehicle. Never before has the Chamber been able to raffle something of such great value as this Jaguar, but thanks to Dave Smith Pontiac, they will! Tickets will sell for a mere \$50 with a limit of 550 tickets sold, so buy a few tickets and increase your odds to go from "Rags to Jags." The party will be held Oct. 22 at the VFW. For more information, contact the Chamber at 269-651-5758.



Water and Sewer Rate Increase Effective Oct. 1

On October 1, 2005, City water and sewer customers will see an increase in their rates.

Rates will be increased due to rising operational costs and capital improvement needs, however rates will continue to remain competitive. In order to ease the impact of the total increase necessary, the City Commission has approved an increase of 3.5 percent.

What does this mean to me, the customer? Seven cents per 1,000 gallons of water used inside the City limits and fourteen cents per 1,000 gallons for customers outside the City limits. However, even with the increase water rates will remain much lower than similar sized communities in our area. Sewer customers will see an increase of nine cents per 1,000 gallons of water used. Additionally, increased sewer rates will continue to be competitive with area communities. There will be no increase in the minimum consumption charges.

The Customer Service Department at City Hall welcomes your questions. Please call them directly at 269-659-7231 or 269-659-7232.

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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Welcome to Fall! A reminder from the Public Services Department

Fall is just around the corner and that means a number of upcoming events from the Public Services Department.

BRUSH PICK-UP - The final city-wide brush pick-up of 2005 will begin Monday, Oct. 3. The department asks that brush be neatly stacked in the terrace area away from trees or signs by 7 a.m. the day of pick-up. Please note that it is unlawful to place brush beyond the curb and in the street. The pick-up is for brush only. The department will not be collecting grass clippings, leaves, roots, thorn-bearing branches, tree trunks, stumps or building materials.

LEAF PICK-UP - The DPS will also begin its 16th annual leaf pick-up Monday, Oct. 24. Crews will follow the same route they do with brush pick-up, beginning north of Chicago Road and west of North Nottawa Road and working their way across the north side of town and then through the south side. Pick-up will resume each day where crews left off the day before. The DPS will continue this cycle through the City at least until the end of November as weather permits. Residents are asked to have leaves raked off of the grass terrace and onto the pavement next to the curb by 8 a.m. Monday morning during the pick-up period.

COMPOST SITE - The City's compost site on East Fawn River Road is open noon-7:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays through Oct. 22. After that date the compost site will close at 5:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays through the remainder of the season, which runs through Nov. 21 unless the ground is snow-covered before. For those who have the means to transport materials, the compost site accepts brush, grass clippings, wood chips and leaves. Under the composting system, it

is preferred that leaves are not put in bags, however arrangements can be made for bagged leaves to be picked up by calling the DPS. Composted material is available at the site for your use.

HYDRANT FLUSHING - The Department of Public Services will maintain the following hydrant flushing schedule. (The schedule is tentative and subject to weather conditions.)

- * Tuesday, September 20 - the area South of East Chicago Road and East of South Nottawa Street.
- * Wednesday, September 21 - South of West Chicago and West of South Nottawa Street.
- * Thursday, September 22 - North of East Chicago Road and East of North Nottawa Street.
- * Friday, September 23 - 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.

For questions concerning brush or leaf pick-up, the compost site, or hydrant flushing, please call the City DPS. Building at 651-2879.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you!
City of Sturgis Public Services Department

