



# 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](http://www.ci.sturgis.mi.us)

June, 2006

Volume 6, Issue 2

## From the City Manager's Desk: Progress is Our Future

Construction is a symbol of progress, reinvestment and vitality. We can all agree that there is plenty of construction, which at its conclusion will result in a renewed sense of community and optimism toward the future. There is no doubt that Sturgis has experienced challenges in recent years, with the loss of businesses that have been part of our community's strong legacy of manufacturing jobs. It should not come as a surprise that in our new global economy that Sturgis' core strength, its industry, has been impacted. As a result of this new global economy, contemporary economic development is more sophisticated than ever.

The Sturgis Economic Development Corporation (EDC) has taken the leadership role to chart a new course. As in any successful organization, public or private, leadership must understand their competition for continued improvement. For the past few months, the Sturgis EDC and the City of Sturgis have been working to outline the elements necessary for a new economic development strategy. We need a plan that identifies future growth sectors, outlines action items for execution, prioritizes projects with the best use of community resources and also builds consensus on public policy issues related to economic development. Because this effort can only succeed with community participation, the Sturgis EDC is committed to a process that is open for citizen input. The reality is that only we as a collective can chart a successful course for the future.

Each community tells a story ... a story of where they have been, where they are going, the challenges overcome and the opportunities seized. Now is the time that we begin to tell the next chapter of Sturgis' story -- smart planning, forward-thinking leadership and a community standing together committed to progress.

Michael L. Hughes  
City Manager

## MDOT's 2006 U.S. 12 Reconstruction and Downtown Streetscape Project

Well, the 2006 U.S. 12 Reconstruction and Downtown Streetscape Project is finally underway and progressing at a good rate. Preliminary work began the last week of March while the removal of the roadway and sidewalk area along the north side of U.S. 12 began in mid-April. There have been some project delays along the way resulting from minor project changes as well as from the tremendous amount of rainfall experienced in May. However, Peters Construction Company, the general contractor in charge of the project, is continuing to work at a relatively quick pace as weather permits.

### Project Modifications

Minor modifications have been made to the original project scope. The City of Sturgis has added new watermain that runs from Nottawa Street to Jefferson Street, Jefferson Street to the Diesel Plant, and from the Diesel Plant to Surprise Street. The addition of the watermain will add some time to original project plans submitted by Peters Construction. The City has also modified the design of the bumpouts planned for corners throughout the downtown area. The design changes for corner bumpouts will allow the number of on-street parking spaces to be maximized.

### Additional Information

Most of us have probably noticed the small signs around town that are providing direction to businesses as well as parking. The Downtown Sturgis Association and the City of Sturgis have installed signs to help direct people through the construction and to the businesses. We are all trying to support our local businesses that are being affected by the U.S. 12 project. Remember to support your local businesses, especially during the reconstruction project. Your support of our businesses will help to ensure a healthy future for our city. Customers are encouraged to use the rear entrances to the downtown businesses during the project. However, Peters Construction will be maintaining the front entrances to the businesses with asphalt millings for stability. There are going to be some inconveniences during this project, but if we all work together and have some extra patience with one another, we will all get through this project in a positive fashion.

### Special Events

A ground-breaking ceremony was conducted on March 23 as the official kick-off of the U.S. 12 project. There will be two other celebrations to promote the project. A half-way party will be scheduled once phase I (the north side) of the U.S. 12 Reconstruction Project is completed. There will also be a celebration event once the U.S. 12 project is completely finished. Both parties will be scheduled as they near their completion dates. Remember to check out the weekly clues for where Buddy Bear will be in downtown Sturgis on Friday afternoons from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. You can check out the clues in the weekly project updates published in the Sturgis Journal's weekend edition and the information stations that are located throughout the community (at Miller's Supervalu, the U.S. Post Office, Great Lakes Chocolate Company, Walmart and City Hall). For further information, feel free to contact us at the following numbers, and remember that no matter what difficulties may arise during the reconstruction project, Sturgis will be a better place once the project is completed. Thank you all for your patience thus far.

### Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)

Jim Woods, MDOT Kalamazoo TSC Delivery Engineer  
269-375-8900

### City of Sturgis

Todd Campbell, Assistant City Manager  
659-7230

## Tips on Managing Utilities



Do higher costs for basic necessities have you shaking your head and feeling as though you're losing control? The good news is, you do have control over how you use your utilities. Since you are charged for the amount you use, a home audit can help you save money. For those consumers who are "Web" savvy, the Internet has many tips to help you save energy and water in your household. For those consumers who do not surf the Web, let's talk about electricity and water.

### Electricity

When assisting customers with questions, the customer service department talks about the number of kilowatts used during a time period. What is a kilowatt? If you use electricity to cook a pot of spaghetti for one hour, you use 1,000 watt hours of electricity. One thousand watt-hours equal 1 kilowatt-hour of energy. The cost for one kilowatt-hour of energy is currently 6.8 cents for residential customers. It is interesting to note that refrigerators use more than five times the electricity than the average television. Here is a helpful tip for saving energy:

\* During the winter months keep your thermostat as low as is comfortable, and in the summer months keep the thermostat as high as is comfortable to conserve energy.

### Water and sewer

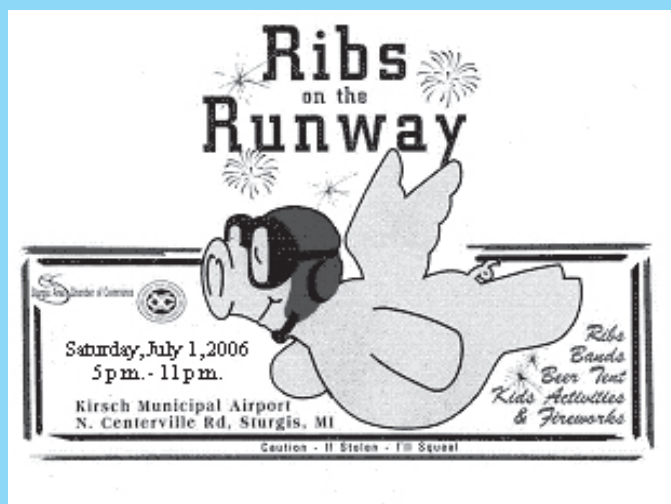
When answering questions about water and sewer, the customer service department refers to water consumption as the number of gallons used during a billing cycle. The usage is measured in thousands of gallons. A "3" appearing on the billing statement stands for three thousand gallons of water used during the billing cycle. Sewer charges are based upon the number of gallons of metered water. On June 1st the City's water and sewer rates will increase. A customer charge will be added to the water. The water rate will remain the same. The debt service fee and readiness to serve fee will be replaced by a single charge which varies with the meter size. The wastewater treatment charge will increase by 25 cents per thousand gallons. A customer who uses 5,000 gallons of water during a billing cycle and has a 5/8 inch meter will see an increase of \$1.90 after June 1st.

As we enter the season of high water use, watering lawns and gardens, filling pools, and letting children play in the sprinkler, let's take a look at some helpful tips:

- \* When watering your lawn or garden, avoid watering in the afternoon heat, as much of the water will evaporate.
- \* Repair leaky faucets and toilets as soon as a problem is discovered.

Remember, a consumer is charged for the amount of usage. The Consumer's Guide gives instructions on calculating electrical usage of your home appliances. Water conservation is an easily controlled expense.

What works for you, the consumer? Do you have energy and water savings tips that help you conserve? Please call your customer service department at 659-7231 or 659-7232 and share your tips.



## New Hires

Due to recent vacancies at the City of Sturgis, the following full-time employees have been hired:

### Daniel Quirin - Wastewater Operator

Dan was hired February 13. He recently worked for Ross Labs as a dry operator and is also a part-time farmer.

### Dawn Bohm - Doyle Office Manager

Dawn was hired April 3. She had worked for more than 10 years for Sturgis Public Schools as an office manager.

Welcome aboard new hires! We're glad to have you!

## DDA News

Mark your calendars! The following dates have been set for downtown summer events. For information contact DDA Director Kim Musolff at 651-1907.

### Fun Fridays

June 16-August 25

### US-12 Garage Sale

August 11, 12 & 13

### Art Bounce

July 21

### Quilt Walk

August 18 & 19

### Sidewalk Sales

July 28 & 29



## Notes from the Public Services Department

DPS crews conduct brush pick-ups each first full week of the month. Crews begin their work on the north side of the city and work south. Weather conditions and varying amounts of brush make it hard to adhere to a strict schedule. Therefore, please have materials ready for pick-up and crews will get them as quickly as possible. For safety reasons, brush should not be placed in the roadway, but should be placed in the yard next to the road. Trees and branches larger than four inches in diameter will not be hauled away. All brush should be cut to lengths of eight feet or less. City residents may also take yard waste materials to the compost site noon-7:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays.



### **Kruska Named Secretary of the Year**

Ericka Kruska, Executive Secretary for Sturgis Public Safety, was recently named 2006 Executive Secretary of the Year by the Sturgis Chamber of Commerce. Her position covers responsibilities for Sturgis Police, Fire and EMS departments and she has been instrumental in writing and coordinating several grants for public safety in the last year. One such grant for Intersection Traffic received state-wide recognition from both AAA and the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police at this year's Chiefs conference in Grand Rapids.

### **VIP's Active in 2006 with Neighborhood Watch Program**

Volunteers in Policing (VIP's), along with officers from the Sturgis Police Department are reporting initial success with their first Neighborhood Watch Program at Cato Lane Apartments. Police and volunteers are reporting active interest and participation from residents that has resulted in community awareness and tips on drugs that are helping the police and Cato Lane Apartments management to maintain a safe and quality area for residents.

VIPs have conducted meth awareness training and are currently responding to a request for self-defense training for women. VIPs are also establishing a Neighborhood Watch Program at the request of Thurston Woods Village and have at least one other area in the works for later this year.

Other activities planned include assisting the police and schools with processing more than 800 local school employees who are required to be fingerprinted on new LiveScan technology. The Sturgis Police Department recently acquired the new fingerprinting technology through a partial grant. A new law requires all teachers and school employees, even volunteers, to have their fingerprints entered for a background check by 2008. VIPs are also working on various other crime prevention activities for the upcoming year.

## **STURGIS FIRE DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES EMS WEEK**

Emergency Medical Services Week has been observed in the United States for 33 years, originally organized to promote safety and recognize the dedication of those who provide day-to-day lifesaving services to communities, such as ours, across the nation.

This was the first year Sturgis Fire Department had officially recognized EMS Week, with an open house held May 19 at the fire station. Participation was less than anticipated, but plans are in place to make next year's event in Sturgis bigger and better.

There is really no simple definition for EMS. In fact, it has been described in many ways. EMS is out-of-hospital patient care. EMS is ambulance transport. EMS is an extension of emergency medicine and an arm of public health. EMS is first response and public safety. In reality, EMS is all of these definitions rolled up into one and truly exemplifies this year's EMS Week theme, "America's front line of health care."

"As this year's theme emphasizes, the brave men and women who serve as EMS providers are often first on the scene of a disaster, a motor vehicle crash or other event that may place them in a hazardous environment," said Doctor Fredrick Blum, President of the American College of Emergency Physicians. "It is important that we take the time to honor these front line medical responders for often going above and beyond the call of duty to save lives while risking their own."

Sturgis Fire Department developed its first rescue squad in the early 1950s to assist residents of the Sturgis area when they had a personal or family emergency, other than fire. That service has developed over the years and the department now provides the community and surrounding areas with both rescue and ambulance services.

The Sturgis Fire Station is available for tours. To schedule a tour for your group, organization or family, please call 659-7257.



**Serving on Health Care's Front Line**



# Welcome to the City of Sturgis Park System

Park Use Hours 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

**Arthur Carls Park** - 1.9 acres. A small neighborhood park that contains a tot-lot playground for 2-5 year olds as well as a basketball court and picnic area.

**Covered Bridge Park** - 12 acres. This park located adjacent to the Sturgis Hydro Electric Power Dam, offers a picnic shelter, public river access, play equipment, pit toilets, several nature trails, and excellent views of the historical Langley Covered Bridge.

**Franks Park** - 19.5 acres. This recently opened sports complex provides seven soccer/football fields for area youth programs. Play equipment, concessions, and restrooms are also located in the park.

**Free Church Park** - 0.6 acres. Home of Santa's House! An attractive park located in the business district, along South Chicago Road. It is used primarily as a resting spot for area residents and shoppers.

**Langrick Park** - 1.8 Acres. This is your typical neighborhood park. The park contains play equipment as well as a basketball court, sand volleyball court, handball court, and two tennis courts.

**Memorial Park** - 3.7 acres. Located in a prominent location, this park was originally built as a tribute to veterans who served in World War I. Plenty of open space, rolling terrain and good tree cover make this an ideal spot for informal games and a relaxing picnic spot.

**Oaklawn Terrace Park** - 26 acres. This heavily used site includes roller hockey, amphitheater, playground, and three covered picnic shelters. The park is also used informally for sledding during the winter months.

**Old Depot Park** - 2.3 acres. The historic train depot was renovated in 1976 and now serves as a museum and the focal point of the park. The depot also houses the Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce. Included in the park is a gazebo, picnic areas and a train-inspired play climber.

**Pahl Point Park** - 15 acres. This park, located on the St. Joseph River in Centreville, MI provides several picnic spots, nature trails, and a fishing pier for area anglers.

**Pioneer Park** - 0.5 acres. Pioneer Park marks the historic site where Judge John Sturgis first settled in 1827.

**Rest stop** - 0.5 acres. A small grassy oasis that provides a "resting" spot for pedestrians traveling between businesses on South Centreville Road and the nearby apartment complexes.

**Shadowlawn** - 0.5 acres. Another small park located across from Congress School that is used informally by waiting parents of the school children.

**Spence Field** - 9.4 acres. After a recent renovation the aging softball complex now contains two regulation size softball diamonds and one practice field for area residents and city-sponsored recreation leagues and tournaments.

**Thurston Woods Park** - 27 acres. This large and popular park has a paved trail used for biking, walking, and

roller blading. This park also offers three covered shelters as well as the Trojan Timbers playground. The focal point of this site is the mature oak and hickory forest that dominates half of the park.

**Wall Fields** - 15 acres. This highly used sports property has recently been redeveloped into a state of the art youth baseball/softball complex. The park consists of four multi-purpose ball diamonds and one regulation Sandy Koufax diamond.

## Park Shelters

The City of Sturgis has seven picnic shelters available for parties or family reunions. (three at Oaklawn Park, three at Thurston Woods Park, and one at Covered Bridge Park)

The City also has an outdoor amphitheater located at Oaklawn Terrace Park that can be reserved for weddings or concerts. Reservations are subject to availability. Please call (269) 659-8110 to reserve a shelter today!



## Doyle Notes ....

### *Upcoming Events at Doyle Community Center*

Hey kids! Looking for something to do this summer? Check out what the Doyle Community Center has to offer:

The **Summer Adventure Club** is a free day camp at Thurston Woods Park for children ages 6 to 12. Some activities include sports, games, arts & crafts and field trips. The camp will run Monday through Friday from June 19 to August 11. Registration is June 6, 8 and 10 at the Doyle Community Center.

A series of **Summer Tennis Camps** will also be held Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays for children ages 5 years through high school. Sessions will be held June 12 - June 29, July 10 - July 27, and/or August 7 - August 24.

**TaeKwon Do** is a Korean Martial Art which focuses on striking with the hands and feet. This is a unique class, as it adds some Aikido (joint-locking skills), Judo/Jujitsu (throwing skills), Escrima (stick fighting), and Boxing to emphasize a practical self-defense curriculum. For ages 10 to adult. Classes will be held Mondays and Thursdays June 22-August 28.

For more information on summer programs or to register, please contact the Doyle Community Center at (269) 659-8110.

## Half-Full or Half-Empty Depends on Perspective

... A Message from Sturgis Economic Development Director  
John Hayes

A frequently used measurement of the economy is the number of unemployed people seeking employment. The area labor force is determined by the Department of Labor by surveying a representative sample of employer's current employment levels. This number is divided into the number of people who are receiving unemployment benefits and those who have registered with the state as persons looking for employment. The resulting percentage of unemployed people is not exact, but serves its purpose by establishing a trend. Due to cutbacks at the Department of Labor, we are no longer able to access unemployment rates by city, village or township. St. Joseph County is now listed as the Sturgis Micropolitan Statistical Area, defined as an area that has at least one urban cluster with a population of more than 10,000 but less than 50,000. St Joseph County was shown in March to have an unemployment rate of 6.7 percent. That is equal to 2,134 unemployed resident workers out of 31,924. Of the entire county workforce, Sturgis accounts for 6,000 of those workers. Morgan Olson, Burr Oak Tool & Gauge, Ross Products, and Sturgis Hospital currently provide employment for one-third of the total 6,000.

The advantage is to the employer whenever the unemployment rate exceeds 5 percent and to the prospective employee's advantage when less than 5 percent. It is generally felt that for one reason or another, 3 percent of the workforce is unemployable.

While western Michigan has suffered with automotive-related manufacturing job loss and off-shoring of jobs, northern Indiana's manufactured housing and recreational vehicle industries have continued to thrive. Many Michigan residents are known to commute to work in Middlebury, Goshen, and Elkhart. That northern Indiana labor market has now reached saturation and Indiana based businesses are looking east to find new sources of labor. One of their compensation enticements has been the piece-work pay plan under which it is not uncommon for an energetic worker to make \$25 to \$30 per hour.

It comes as no surprise that the Keystone Division of Thor Industries is moving into the former United Technologies facility south and east of the toll road interchange. Sun Valley RV expects their new plant to be complete to the southwest of the interchange in two months, and there is talk of an expansion by Cruiser RV northeast of the interchange. In the meantime, Iceberg Enterprises has consolidated former Chicago-based warehousing and distribution into the former Franks Nursery building, and VCI has moved a new operation into the former Vulcan building on Dresser Drive in Airport Industrial Park. Add to that a new tenant in the Dometic building on West Chicago Road, and the new employment demand in the area adds up to a job market in favor of the employee. We are experiencing a welcome surge in manufacturing jobs, but depending on your perspective, the glass can be half-full or half-empty.

## Sturgis Hospital Board of Trustees

*Cordially invites you to attend the*

## Open House Celebration

*of the Sturgis Hospital*

*Birthing Center & Surgery Addition*

*and participate in another historical photo opportunity*

**Sunday, June 11, 2006**

*2:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.*

*Welcome at 2:15 p.m. / photo at 2:30 p.m. / tours to follow*

*The celebration begins near the Hospital's new front entrance*

*Prizes will be given for the oldest and youngest persons born at  
Sturgis Hospital participating in the photo shoot*



## Harper named DARE and Youth Services Officer

Officer Amanda Harper of the Sturgis Police Department took over duties as the new DARE and Youth Services Officer May 15. Harper began work with the

department in February 2005. Prior to that, she had worked for the Edwardsburg Police Department and the White Pigeon Police Department, serving as a Youth Services Officer as part of her duties in Edwardsburg. Harper will attend DARE Officer school in June to be ready for the upcoming school year. She replaces Matt Allen, who has served as Youth Services Officer for the past few years and has done an outstanding job. Allen has returned to road duties after rotating out of the Youth Services Unit.

# Kids Corner Word Find

## SUMMER FUN

B C P S T D O U Y T

Q O W G R B A G R A

L I O L I M N E A O

M L O K P I S M R B

Z O A M S D H H B K

P R H B N B H S I F

L S H E E Z I W L B

A H I H M S C K W B

Y R G W L L A K E S

F T E N N I S B G L

BASEBALL	BIKE	BOAT
BOOKS	FISH	FRIENDS
LAKE	LIBRARY	PLAY
POOL	READ	SWIM
TENNIS	TRIPS	

## INSIDE

MDOT Reconstruction Project.....	1
From the City Manager's Desk .....	1
Public Service Notes.....	2
Managing Utilities/New Hires/DDA.....	2
VIP's Activities.....	3
EMS Week/Secretary of the Year .....	3
Sturgis Parks/Doyle Notes .....	4
Note from EDC/Dare and Youth Officer .....	5

## READ WITH US THIS SUMMER!



### Summer Story Times

for ages 2-6

Stories, Songs and Art Projects

Begin June 27 for 5 weeks

### Summer Reading Program

for Babies to Teens

June 9 - July 28

Read and earn prizes!

Sturgis District Library

255 North Street

(269) 659-7224

### REGULAR HOURS

(Labor Day thru Memorial Day)

Tues. & Wed., 9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Thurs. & Fri., 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Sat. 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Closed Sunday & Monday

### SUMMER HOURS

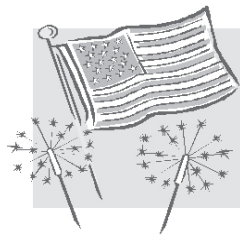
(Memorial Day thru Labor Day)

Tues., Wed. & Fri., 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Thurs., 9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Sat., 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Closed Sunday & Monday



*Wishing you a safe and happy*

*Fourth of July*

*from your friends at the*

*City of Sturgis!*

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By The

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### STURGIS CITY COMMISSION

Mayor Robert Sisson - At Large

Vice-Mayor Caralee Mayer - Precinct 1

Commissioner Lee Austermann - Precinct 1

Commissioner Barbara Fisher - Precinct 3

Commissioner P. Joseph Haas - Precinct 4

Commissioner Karl Littman - Precinct 4

Commissioner Kenneth Malone - Precinct 3

Commissioner Ronald Richards - Precinct 2

Commissioner Karen Stephens - 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

PRSRT STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. Postage **PAID**  
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City of



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