



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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Volume 6, Issue 1

Sturgis Power Costs Increase

On December 28, 2005, the City of Sturgis signed a six-month electric power supply contract with Indiana Michigan Power Company, replacing a contract that expired on December 31, 2005. The contract became effective January 1, 2006, and will provide the City with reasonably priced power while long-term power supply negotiations continue through Sturgis' membership in the Indiana Michigan Municipal Electric Association. The interim contract will increase the City's electric power supply costs by approximately 13.2 percent.

On January 25, 2006, the Sturgis City Commission passed a resolution to implement changes in the electric rate structure to cover the added cost of power. The changes will result in an across the board increase of approximately seven percent for all electric rates. This is less than the increase in power supply costs because power costs are only a portion of the Electric Department's total expenses. For the typical residential customer, the monthly increase will be \$3.78.

Had Sturgis not signed this interim contract, power would have been purchased from the electric power market during the six month period. Market based costs would have been 30 to 50 percent higher.

Market based pricing models came about as some large industrial customers and marketers pushed state and federal regulators for lower cost power supply options. In response, regulators and legislators developed various retail and wholesale changes in the electric utility industry. Initially, there were cost reductions for some customers. Most customers, however, have not realized lower market based rates because of the lack of fully functioning markets, higher natural gas prices, and uncertainty on the part of electric power generators.

2006 MDOT U.S. 12 Reconstruction Project

After more than two years of planning and designing, MDOT's U.S. 12 Reconstruction Project is nearly upon us. The current time line for the reconstruction project includes an awarding of the project contract on March 3, 2006, with an expedited bid award so the project is able to begin the first part of April. As long as the project starts on time, all of the work should be completed by the end of November of this year.

The City Commission and City staff understand that there will be difficulties for our community during this major project. However, City staff is currently working with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce to develop a marketing and information plan. The plan's main objective is to keep the residents and business owners of Sturgis informed about what is happening with the project. Some examples include information on the status of certain portions of the project and detour information. Another major objective of the marketing and information plan is to make the project as fun as possible for the residents and business owners of Sturgis. City staff will be introducing Buddy Bear, your construction buddy, as part of the plan. Buddy will help to inform people and to promote the businesses along portions of the U.S. 12 corridor that are under construction. So, make sure you stop down to meet Buddy and see what fun games he has to offer.

In addition to Buddy Bear, the marketing and information plan will also include a number of "Resource Centers" located at Miller's Super Valu, Great Lakes Chocolate Company, the U.S. Post Office and Walmart. The "Resource Centers" will have a project map and newsletter that will provide details and explanations regarding the progress of the project. City staff will be working with the Sturgis Journal to provide weekly written updates with a project map showing the current status of the project. City staff will also be frequenting the U.S. 12 reconstruction site on a regular basis and talking with residents and business owners to see how everyone is enduring the difficulties and inconveniences caused by the project. As always, if there are any questions or comments please contact Assistant City Manager Todd Campbell at 659-7234 or by e-mail at tcampbell@ci.sturgis.mi.us.

2005 Street Improvement Program a Success

2005 was a good year for the streets of Sturgis. The City's 2005 Street Improvement Program is being called "a success" by City Engineer Thomas Seymour, with nearly one-fifth of all city streets receiving some type of repair. About 3.5 miles of City roads were milled and resurfaced while cracks were filled on about 7.3 miles of road. That means work was done on a total of 10.8 miles of road while the City's streets total about 54 miles.

More road work had been done during 2005 than in past years with a total project cost of about \$373,000. Residents can look forward to further improvements in 2006. A program will be developed with information to follow early this summer.

Notes from the Public Services Department ... Spring 2006 Leaf & Brush Pick-up

It has been a long, cold winter but spring is almost here! And as everyone is anxious to get outside and enjoy some sunshine, the Public Services Department is gearing up for the spring leaf and brush pick-up which will begin the first full week of April.

Leaves and brush will be picked up at the same time. Please remember this pick-up is for leaves and brush only. 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.

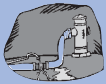
Please, do not pile leaves or brush near the roadway more than 48 hours in advance of the pick-up. Residents should have their leaves and brush on the terrace or in the yard next to the road. Please, for safety reasons, do not put leaves or brush in the roadway. The brush should also be neatly stacked and separated from the leaves. See the following schedule for details:

MONDAY, APRIL 3rd - LEAF AND BRUSH PICK-UP FOR RESIDENTS NORTH OF CHICAGO ROAD.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5th - LEAF AND BRUSH PICK-UP FOR RESIDENTS SOUTH OF CHICAGO ROAD.

DPS crews will begin the pick-up on the north side of the City and work their way south. Weather conditions and varying amounts of leaves and brush make it difficult to adhere to a strict schedule. Therefore, it is necessary to have materials ready for pick-up and we will get to them as quickly as we can. If you are unable to meet this month's schedule, our crews will be back the first full week of each month through October.

City residents may also take yard waste materials to the compost site beginning April 3rd. Compost site hours will be from 12:00 noon to 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturdays.



Spring 2006 Hydrant Flushing Schedule

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 18th - THE AREA SOUTH OF EAST CHICAGO ROAD AND EAST OF SOUTH NOTTAWA STREET.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19th - THE AREA SOUTH OF WEST CHICAGO ROAD AND WEST OF SOUTH NOTTAWA STREET.

THURSDAY, APRIL 20th - THE AREA NORTH OF EAST CHICAGO ROAD AND EAST OF NORTH NOTTAWA STREET.

FRIDAY, APRIL 21st - 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.

If you should have any questions, please contact the Public Services Department at 651-2879.

**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 grass and weed 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.*

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Chamber News

Michigan Week on its Way



Michigan Week 2006 is fast approaching and plans are underway for this year's celebration, scheduled for May 19-26. This year's theme, "Great Lakes, Great Traditions: The Magic of Michigan," highlights both our state's history of magic from Houdini to Blackstone and the many treasures that make life in Michigan magical, from bountiful natural resources and wonderful homegrown products to unique tourist sites and abundant arts and cultural assets. Some highlights to this year's festival are as follows:

* Due to the construction of Chicago Road, Sturgis High School will play host to the Gateway Festival activities and the parade, at noon Saturday, will run on South Lakeview progressing north to Congress and ending at SHS.

* The main activities will begin the afternoon of Friday the 19th, through Sunday the 21st at 5:00 p.m.

* The Friday evening Kick-Off Dinner at the Auditorium will be followed by The Variety Show (back by popular demand) and will include the presentation to the Citizen's of the Year.

* The Michigan Week Dance at the Armory, on Saturday night, is sure to be a hit where the much-requested band, Montage, will be performing.



The Sturgis Improvement Association; a History of Growth

Many people, especially those newer to the community, are unfamiliar with the growth history of Sturgis. For those curious, the Sturgis Public Library has an abundance of materials in its research room, including newspaper articles, pictures, and copies of books written by Sturgis' local historian, Robert H. Hair.

Perhaps the most important activities were those of the Sturgis Improvement Association, which was founded in 1902. It followed the efforts of the Board of Trade, formed in 1889. According to the Sturgis Journal at that time, the Board of Trade had the objective of "The advancement of the financial prosperity of our city". In addition to attracting new manufacturing enterprises, the board saw the greatest need to build a public waterworks system in the interest of fire protection.

Industrial land acquisition and sale was the work of the Sturgis Improvement Association, beginning with the Prairie Heights Addition, south of Congress Street and west of Prairie Avenue. The Sturgis Go-Cart factory was built there around 1906 and later sold to the National Carbon Coated Paper Company, which located its Sturgis Register division there. The typical process followed by the eight-man association was to provide new industries with sites or other attractive terms aimed to bring them here and to help them get started. Funds were raised by buying raw farm land outside of the city, platting the land into subdivisions, and then selling the lots to people wanting to build homes. An incentive fund was formed from profits from the sales along with donations contributed by local citizens. At that time, every registered voter in Sturgis was automatically a member of the Improvement Association, with no dues or membership cards. In addition to being a registered voter, members were required to have an interest in the welfare of Sturgis.

By January of 1910, 300 new homes were built and 15 new factories were established. Another development strategy was for the association to use its funds to buy stock in the new business, charge interest to the business, and eventually have the stock purchased back by the company when it became prosperous. In 1922 the Athletic Park Addition was platted on the east side of Centerville Road, north of the railroad tracks. Universal Diesel Products, Spartan Coach and Manufacturing, and Marvel Industries all located there. The Sturgis Improvement Association encouraged and assisted the City Commission to establish a suitable site for M & R Dietetic Laboratories in 1946. Later in 1954, the SIA bought part of the Wilber Benson farm at the southwest corner of Centerville Road and Fawn River Road. This became the site of the Bound Brook Oil-Less Bearing Company and the Glasspar Boat Company, later to be bought by Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation. South of Fawn River Road and west of South Nottawa, 45 acres of land were sold to General Fireproofing which established the Sturgis Company there. Additional industrial park land was bought from the Sturgis family south of the airport which became designated as Airport Industrial Park. In 1968 they purchased land on Centerville Road, north of the Armory, and expanded it in 1974 with land on North Clay Street, east of the railroad tracks, now known as Bullard Commercial Park. Sturgis Industrial Park was established by the SIA south of Fawn River Road and east of Centerville Road, where Oak Products Company, Sturgis Molded Products and Sturgis Iron and Metal are located. In 1985, 138 acres of land was purchased north of the airport and west of M-66 which was named Stapleton Industrial Park in 1988. Now Mayer Tool and Engineering, Secure Domes and Mirrors, and Johnson Precision Mold and Engineering have their homes there.

The SIA is a non-profit organization that interacts with the Sturgis Economic Development Corporation which was established in 1978 as a City of Sturgis board. One role of the Economic Development Corporation is to hold title to the properties acquired by the SIA. The leadership of the SIA Board has remained stable over the years, utilizing its members' expertise in banking, real estate, legal, and manufacturing know-how. Industrial parks and the streets created within them now recognize many of the presidents who devoted their time to business attraction. We encourage you as residents to learn more of the details of this history of business attraction by utilizing the resources of our library.

New Hires

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

Brian Szygula – Police Officer

Brian is a recent graduate of Western Michigan University and has a B.A. in Criminal Justice. Brian was recommended by the Police Academy Director at Kalamazoo Valley Community College as a top police cadet.

Susan Walters-Emrick – Event Coordinator at Sturges-Young

Susan has more than 25 years of experience managing and operating D & S Grocery Store in Constantine, Michigan. She is a life-long resident of the area.

Deonna Wells – Paramedic

Deonna was initially hired as an on-call paramedic, but was recently hired on as a full-time employee. Deonna holds a B.A. from Kalamazoo College in Biology and has been a paramedic for just over a year.

Andy Kiss – Paramedic Supervisor

Andy has accepted the Paramedic Supervisor position. His promotion was effective February 6, 2006.

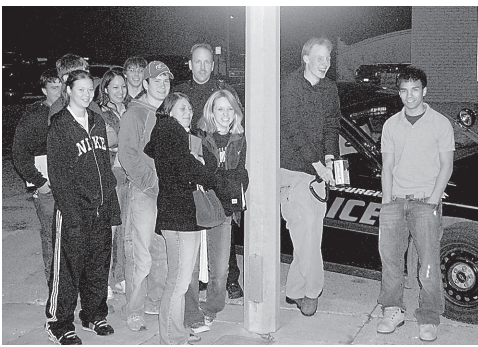
Michael Nemeth – Paramedic

Michael began work February 6, 2006 as a paramedic. Michael is filling the vacancy created by Andy Kiss' promotion to Paramedic Supervisor. Michael was the senior paramedic, field training officer and field supervisor for Pride EMS in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Welcome to all of our newest employees!

A Note on Swimming Pools

Pools that hold 24 inches of water or more, even inflatable pools, require a permit and proper fencing. Before you purchase your pool, please contact the Community Development Department for more information at 659-7230.



Sturgis Police Offer Youth Program

Fourteen area students are currently participating in a Youth Police Academy offered by the Sturgis Police Department. The 10-week academy, designed for area junior and senior high school students interested in law enforcement careers, includes both classroom and practical sessions covering a wide variety of law enforcement subjects.

READ WITH US THIS SUMMER!



Summer Reading Program

for Babies to Teens

June 9 - July 28

Read and earn prizes!

Summer Story Times

for ages 2-6

Stories, Songs and Art Projects

Begin June 27 for 5 weeks

Sturgis Public Library

255 North Street

(269) 659-7224

REGULAR HOURS

(Labor Day thru Memorial Day)

Tues. & Wed., 9:30-8:00

Thurs. & Fri., 9:30-5:30

Sat. 9:30-2:00

Closed Sunday & Monday

SUMMER HOURS

(Memorial Day thru Labor Day)

Tues., Wed. & Fri., 9:30-5:30

Thurs., 9:30-8:00

Sat., 9:30-12:30

Closed Sunday & Monday

Doyle Notes

Make a date to attend any of the following events at the Doyle Community Center:

March 10 - Dodgeball Tournament for adults, 4:30-8:30 p.m.

March 11 - Dodgeball Tournament for high school students, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

March 24 - "Date with Dad," 6:30-9 p.m.

April 8 & 9 - Sturgis Gun & Knife Show, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday & 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday

April 8 & 15 - Practical Self-Defense Class, 8-9 a.m.

March 11- April 11 (Saturdays) - Introduction to Tai Kwon Do, 8-9 a.m.

Please Contact the Doyle Community Center with any questions at 659-8110.

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STURGIS CITY COMMISSION

Mayor Robert Sisson - At Large

Vice-Mayor Caralee Mayer - Precinct 1

Commissioner Lee Austerman - 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

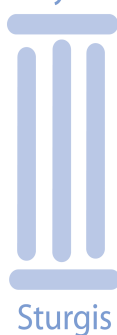
The City's Mission is to deliver high-quality services in a professional, efficient and nondiscriminatory manner to its residents and businesses; to continue to strengthen the economy and quality of life; and to ensure that the expression of views by citizens are recognized and responded to by the City.

The Sturgis
Wire
City of Sturgis

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