



# 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)

September, 2006

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## From the City Manager's Desk:

### *SR-9/M-66 Corridor Project is Passageway to Success*

Lagrange County, St. Joseph County, Sturgis Township and the City of Sturgis have been working together to plan the development of the SR-9/M-66 Corridor. As a main north-south roadway with access to I-80/90, the SR-9/M-66 Corridor offers significant potential for future growth, especially for commercial businesses. Currently, the lack of available infrastructure, namely water and sewer, creates a substantial barrier to development.

Sturgis Township and the City of Sturgis have been discussing an amendment to the existing P.A. 425 agreement. A P.A. 425 agreement allows the conditional transfer of land from one municipality to another. The purpose of a 425 agreement is to promote economic development within the State of Michigan by providing a method by which cities, villages and townships may agree to engage in cooperative economic development projects for their mutual benefit. What does this really mean? Simply, two partners that need each other work together to grow the community. This legislation recognizes that economic growth of communities is often constrained or thwarted by the lack of public infrastructure services within an area for targeted growth. The P.A. 425 amendment is only for the area identified in the Indiana SR-9/Michigan M-66 I-80/90 Development Study, or the area from Bogen Road south to the State Line and spanning about one-half of a mile east and west of M-66.

The construction cost of the sewer infrastructure is estimated at \$1,283,000 with the portion serving Lagrange at \$610,791, Sturgis Township \$464,920 and the City of Sturgis \$207,289. The value of the wastewater treatment plant capacity needed to serve Sturgis Township is estimated at \$1,016,862. The proposed P.A. 425 amendment is structured such that the City will pay the cost of the sewer serving Sturgis Township and in turn the property will transfer to City jurisdiction under certain conditions. The attractive part to the property owner is that their property will only become City jurisdiction if the ownership changes, they request to connect to sewer, or at the end of the agreement term, which is about 44 years. The City will also pay the Township 3 mills, 1 of which will be directed to a marketing/development fund for the corridor area. The City will be required to put 2 mills towards the marketing/development fund.

While some details remain to be negotiated between the City and Sturgis Township, I believe it is fair to state that both parties are committed to this effort. This project is about the future - our ability to competitively attract business and industry. It is about improving our community and moving Sturgis forward. I welcome any questions or comments that you may have.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Hughes, City Manager

## 2006 MDOT U.S. 12 RECONSTRUCTION AND DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPE PROJECT UPDATE

Can you believe it? September is already here and we have started phase II of the U.S. 12 project by changing over to the south side of the street! It seems like it has been a long time coming, but the hardest part of the project is complete. The project has finally begun to take shape and actually look like something other than a large canal. The new asphalt road, new brick sidewalks and refurbished decorative light poles are really looking sharp and bringing a feeling of rebirth to our downtown and to our community. Just imagine what it will look like when it is 100% complete!

Now that the majority of the utility work is complete, Peters Construction is hoping to be able to complete phase II in a shorter amount of time than phase I. MDOT's goal is to have the first two courses of asphalt (base & leveling courses) and sidewalk on the south side of U.S. 12 completed by the end of November 2006. However, plan B would include concrete sidewalks being completed in the downtown area with temporary asphalt being installed on the roadway to get us through the winter. The temporary asphalt would be milled up in spring 2007 and new asphalt meeting MDOT specifications would be put down. If plan A is accomplished, Peters Construction will be returning in spring 2007 to finish up the project. Some of the major items to be completed in the final phase (phase III) include: 1) putting down the top course of asphalt on the north and south sides of U.S. 12; 2) completion of sidewalk work (outside of the downtown area); 3) construction of traffic islands on U.S. 12 (three between Monroe Street and Jefferson Street); and 4) plantings and restoration work.

In addition to the construction details, City staff, MDOT and Peters Construction would like to congratulate and say thanks to all of the residents of the greater Sturgis area for being patient and cooperative during this on-going project. Additionally, a big THANK YOU for continuing to go out of your way to patronize the downtown businesses and the businesses throughout the corridor, even if it does take a few more minutes to get from place to place. Please continue to make the extra effort to support our local businesses as this will help to ensure a healthy future for those businesses once the project is completed. Remember to look for Buddy Bear along the construction corridor on Friday afternoons from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Everyone guessing the correct answer to the weekly clue regarding where Buddy Bear will be, becomes eligible to receive a prize.

Finally, as we have all experienced, 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. Remember, no matter what difficulties come up during the reconstruction project, Sturgis will be better for it once the project is completed. As always, if you have any questions or comments please contact Todd Campbell, Assistant City Manager, at 659-7230.



# Welcome to Fall! . . . *A Reminder from the Public Services Department*

## LEAF PICK-UP

Fall is on its way and the Department of Public Services (DPS) is beginning its 17th annual leaf pick-up and community composting program.

DPS crews will begin picking up leaves on Monday October 23rd, beginning north of Chicago Road and west of N. Nottawa Street and working 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. Crews will continue this cycle through the City at least until the end of November as weather permits.

Residents should have leaves raked off of the grass terrace area and onto the curbed pavement by 8:00 a.m. Monday morning during the pick-up period. Under the composting system, it is preferred that leaves are not put in bags. If you choose to put leaves in bags please call the DPS office so we can make arrangements to pick them up as our schedule permits. Bagged leaves may also be taken to the compost site during scheduled hours, however you must dump the leaves from the bags, as bags are not accepted at the site.

For those who have the means to transport materials, the department encourages the use of the city's compost site on E. Fawn River Road for the disposal of leaves, brush, grass clippings and wood chips. Beginning Monday, October 23, fall compost site hours will be noon-5:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays and 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Saturdays. Composted material is also available at the site for your use.

*Note: The last day for the compost site to be open will be Monday, November 20, unless the ground is covered with snow before then.*



## BRUSH PICK-UP

The City-wide brush pick-up will begin on Monday, October 2nd. This will be the final brush pick-up of 2006.

Brush should be neatly stacked in the terrace area away from trees or signs by 7:00 a.m. the day of pick-up. Please note that it is unlawful to place brush beyond the curb in the street.

This monthly pick-up is for brush only. Crews will not be collecting grass clippings, leaves, roots, thorn-bearing branches, tree trunks, stumps or building materials.

Brush pick-up will resume in 2007 during the first full week of each month from April through October.

## HYDRANT FLUSHING

The City of Sturgis Department of Public Services will be flushing hydrants in September following this schedule. This is a tentative schedule subject to weather conditions.

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 19: THE AREA SOUTH OF EAST CHICAGO ROAD AND EAST OF SOUTH NOTTAWA STREET.**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20: SOUTH OF WEST CHICAGO ROAD AND WEST OF SOUTH NOTTAWA STREET.**

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 21: NORTH OF EAST CHICAGO ROAD AND EAST OF NORTH NOTTAWA STREET.**

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 22: NORTH OF WEST CHICAGO ROAD AND WEST OF NORTH NOTTAWA STREET TO N. CENTERVILLE ROAD.**

Should any water discoloration occur, let water run until clear.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you!

For questions concerning leaf or brush pick-up, the compost site or hydrant flushing please call the City DPS Building at 651-2879. Hours are 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## **A Look at the City of Sturgis Burning Ordinance . . . A Message from Deputy Fire Chief Scott Hopkins**

With fall on its way, it would seem that there is some confusion as to what can and cannot be burned in the city. I would like to offer the following guidelines, which have been in effect for more than ten years, in an effort to avoid any misunderstandings.

Burning household trash is legal in the city. This burning must be in an approved container such as a metal, fifty-five gallon barrel. The approved container must be located at least fifteen feet from any structure or wooden fence. Clean paper and processed wood may be burned, however items such as garbage, plastics, diapers or animal waste may not be burned. You may burn between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Burning is not allowed on Sundays. We recommend you burn when there is little or no wind so the smoke will drift up and away, not into a neighbor's windows.

A recreational fire is described as "an outdoor fire utilized to cook food for human consumption". This is the most popular fire for hanging out in the backyard. These fires do not require a permit or have a limitation as to hours of operation. We ask citizens to use common sense when utilizing a recreational fire. Keep it small, attended and in a ring on the ground or appropriate container away from houses, garages or wooden fences.

A bonfire is described as "an outdoor fire used for ceremonial purposes". If you anticipate having a bonfire please call the department for guidelines.

With fall fast approaching there is always a question about burning leaves. The code states specifically "It shall be unlawful for any person to burn, or cause to be burned . . . leaves, grass clippings or any other organic matter on the public streets, alleys, or roadways, or on any street, terrace or easement within the limits of the city". The City maintains a compost site on Fawn River Road for these items, and we encourage its use.

Please remember to always use caution when burning. Fires should always be attended. Do not go in the house or walk away from a burning, or even a smoldering fire. Keep children and animals away from fire. Have a hose or bucket of water immediately available to extinguish the fire, and ensure the fire is completely out before leaving or retiring for the night. Trash fires and recreational fires have caused numerous neighborhood conflicts over the years. Please be considerate of your neighbors, especially the elderly, neighbors with health conditions, when windows are open in the summer, or when you see clothes drying on a line.

The Fire Department reserves the right to ask you to extinguish any type of fire if it causes a nuisance in the neighborhood.

If you have any questions concerning the ordinance, or to issue a complaint, please call the City of Sturgis Fire Department at 659-7272. Thank you for your cooperation.

### ***New Hires***

The City of Sturgis is pleased to announce the addition of Anthony VanNest and Donald Patterson to the staff.

VanNest started as a seasonal parks & cemetery maintenance worker in May 2002 and has worked every summer since while attending college. With a recent vacancy in the City's Parks & Cemetery Department, VanNest applied for the position and an interviewing committee selected him as the final candidate. VanNest began his new position on August 14, 2006, and is now a full-time Parks & Cemetery maintenance worker. He is a Sturgis High School graduate and is currently attending Western Michigan University part-time.

Patterson had also worked as a seasonal parks & cemetery maintenance worker since August 2005. He had applied for one of two recent vacancies in the Parks & Cemetery Department and an interviewing committee selected him as one of the final candidates. He began his new, full-time position on August 28, 2006. Donald is a long-time resident of Sturgis and had worked for Grumman Olson for more than 32 years.

Welcome aboard Tony and Don!



### ***Doyle Notes***

Check out what the Doyle Community Center has to offer! Contact the Doyle at 659-8110 for information on these and other available classes.

#### **Practical Self-Defense**

This course is designed for the casual user. Basic escape techniques including pressure points and falling will be taught. Participants will learn how to deal with someone hands-on. For ages 10-adult. Sessions are 8-9 a.m. October 7 & 14, December 2 & 9, January 20 & 27, and March 3 & 10.

#### **Private Tennis Lessons**

Adult or youth, individual or group lessons are available. A list of certified instructors is available at the Doyle Center Front Desk. Each lesson is 1 hour long and must be scheduled by the instructor that you choose.



## What to Prepare For? A Message from EDC Director John Hayes

The Bureau of labor Market Information has just released their Michigan Career Outlook Through 2012. This is useful information for career planning, especially for those preparing to enter high school. The report identifies the fastest-growing local occupations, occupations with the largest number of annual job openings, and the high-growth occupations for various educational levels. The information is broken down by labor market - in our case Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties.

In the category "High-growth occupations requiring an associates degree, technical training, or work experience", Registered Nurse needs will number 450 at an average hourly wage of \$24.53 through 2012. First line management or supervision of retail sales comes in at 205 jobs at \$19.03 per hour. Other high paying jobs in this category include Purchasing Agents, Production Supervisors, Cost Estimators, Dental Hygienists, and Property Managers.

Under fastest-growing occupations by percent job growth, Home Health Aids lead, with Social and Human Service Assistants closely behind. Computer Software Engineers and Applications Specialists will show growth of over 35 percent. Of these occupations, Social and Human Services Assistants require only moderate on-the-job training but are also at the low end of the pay scale. Other high-growth, on-the-job training only jobs, found on the low end of the wage scale, were Machine Operators, Set-Up, and Tenders.

At the top of the heap when it comes to overall pay, Personal Financial Advisors, Financial Managers, Computer Systems Managers, and Sales Managers lead the pack. All of these careers however, require a minimum of a Bachelor's degree.

Copies of the publication are available at City Hall, or you may access the website at [www.michmi.org](http://www.michmi.org), and look under "What's New" to download your copy.

The City of Sturgis Recreation Department  
invites you to the

### Michigan Gun & Knife Show

October 7 & 8

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday and  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday  
at the Doyle Community Center

Event Features: Shotguns, Rifles, Handguns,  
Scopes, Knives, Shooting Supplies,  
Ammunition, Gun Cases, Military Surplus,  
Archery Equipment, Fishing Supplies, Wild  
Game Jerky and Much More!

Admission is \$5 per person.  
For more information visit  
[www.migunshows.com](http://www.migunshows.com)



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

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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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