



# The 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 2007

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

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2

## Regional Economic Development Recommendations

The Upjohn Institute has released preliminary research on the long-term economic outlook for the region including Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph Counties. The outlook is through the year 2022 (without the use of a crystal ball). Demographically the area is very similar to that of the overall United States. The population is aging and will demand more and more health care services. A heavy emphasis on manufacturing will result in advanced technology upgrades making it possible to produce more with a smaller, but highly trained workforce. Electricity will become more reliant on nuclear power plants of improved design, as currently used reliably in Western Europe for several years now. Michigan auto suppliers will continue to lose market share over the next few years. While the national economy slows to a growth rate of 2.7 percent annually the region will also grow, but at a slower pace. The winning occupations will be in health care, teaching and computer specialties. Production occupations, unfortunately, are forecast to continue to sustain the greatest number of job losses. Revenue losses at the state level will put greater budgetary demands on local jurisdictions. Health care, education, senior citizen activities, and public transportation needs will require more attention.

The region's growth will be highly dependent on the quantity of goods and services that are sold to customers from outside the region. The majority of this "export" base has traditionally been manufacturing, but will become more dependent on medical and professional services. Tourism and retirees attracted by the region's quality of life will have the same effect by bringing in new dollars to the region's economy. Unemployment will land St. Joseph County in the middle of the five, with Kalamazoo and Barry Counties about 1 percent lower. The strength of the local firm's market, its management, and skilled workforce will be the primary determinants of success. Weaknesses of the region are seen as the loss of ownership of key companies, suffering from "the small city blues", and sluggish markets for current industry clusters. Strengths include the competitive positions maintained in the export-based industries, three community colleges with strong ties to their business communities, I-94, I-69 and I-80 interstates, and the home of Western Michigan University.

Some conditions are different than rumored to be. Younger residents are not more educated than older residents, if younger is 35 to 44. Production workers in the region are younger than the overall occupational age distribution at an average age of 39 years.

When the finishing touches are put on this study, recommendations will be offered for the 15-year regional development activities for the five-county area. In addition we will have plans at both the St. Joseph County and the City of Sturgis level as roadmaps for future growth.

## Community Planting Day

The first annual Community Planting Day took place May 16, 2007.

Approximately 25 people, including those from the Sturgis Garden Club, Sturgis Exchange Club, DDA, City staff and community members participated. They planted curb bumpouts on the north side of Chicago Road in downtown Sturgis, City Hall planters on North Nottawa Street, and planters at Oaklawn Cemetery. City staff is already planning the second annual Community Planting Day for May 2008.



## Curbside Recycling Update

Kudos to all Sturgis recyclers! Reports are that Republic Waste haulers are impressed with our level of participation, cleanliness of discarded containers and the overall compliance to the recycling rules that Sturgis residents have exhibited in the last few months. Sturgis is doing an outstanding job of recycling. Statistically, for the month of March, we find the following data:

<u>Paper</u>	<u>Rigids</u> (Plastic & Glass Containers)	<u>Percentage</u> (Of Households Participating)
9.38 tons	4.27 tons	58 %

Keep up the good work!

### Some Recycling Tips:

1. Green recycling bins are to be on the curb by 7 a.m.
2. Paper grocery bags may be used at the curb for paper goods, such as mail and shredded paper.
3. You may staple the paper bags shut.
4. Do not recycle pizza boxes. They are too greasy.
5. All containers must be food/grease free.
6. Do not put recyclables into plastic bags.
7. Crush plastic milk containers.
8. Cut cardboard boxes down.
9. Plastic grocery bags are accepted at Wal-Mart.
10. When grocery shopping, take your own cloth bag(s) in which to bring your purchases home.

## From the City Manager's Desk: Local Business Spotlight

For all those businesses that have endured a long construction period, it has been a difficult year to say the least. The bottom line is that if we do not support our businesses, they will cease to exist. Imagine having to drive 45 minutes to get your bicycle serviced or to purchase pool supplies, particularly with the perpetual increase in gas prices? Please be mindful of this as you make your next purchase. Let us give our businesses the support they deserve.

In an effort to help promote local businesses, *The Sturgis Wire* will feature a new section titled, "Local Business Spotlight". The purpose of the "Local Business Spotlight" will be to promote newsworthy items about new and existing businesses. It amazes me each time I learn about our local businesses and often the little known treasures that they offer. The City of Sturgis is working hard to be an advocate of business with the development of new programs such as The Business Development Team (see page 3). It is our hope that the "Local Business Spotlight" will be another valuable tool in promoting and creating awareness of our businesses keeping them strong and healthy. Submittals for the "Local Business Spotlight" should be sent to Todd Campbell at [tcampbell@ci.sturgis.mi.us](mailto:tcampbell@ci.sturgis.mi.us). He can also be contacted at 659-7234.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Hughes



# Look What's Happening at the Sturges-Young Auditorium

### Seat Campaign

It's a time of excitement at the Auditorium. Our Seat Campaign is in full swing, literally. On June 22 at Klinger Lake Country Club Golf Course, teams of three golfers and one pro will be taking to the course for a fun-filled day in our first Pro-Am Golf tournament. It promises to be an exciting event with lunch, beverages, snacks, prizes, and a great dinner to end the evening. And don't forget the golf! Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. with lunch at the Country Club at 11 a.m. At noon is a shot-gun start and the excitement begins. At 6 p.m. at the Auditorium there will be an open bar and the Silent Auction. Dinner and awards are at 7 p.m. and a live auction will follow. If you are not a golfer you can take part in the evening festivities, just call the Auditorium at 651-8541 for details. All of the proceeds will go to the Best Seat in the House Campaign.

The Auditorium would like to send a special thank you to the Sturgis Schools for their support and contributions to help us with the Seat Campaign. Also thanks to the Sturgis Garden Club for the generous contribution in the name of Mrs. Mildred Freeman and a big thank you to all who have so generously given in support of the seat campaign. Also, thank you to our good friends at the Sturgis Journal and a special thanks to Mr. Dan Tollefson who is the Chairman of our Best Seat in the House Campaign. Without all of your support the campaign would not be possible. In the future there will be many more thanks to come. The Auditorium is something to be proud of and she needs our help to freshen, repair and keep the grand lady that she is in tip top shape. We are making progress and hope to be able to give a fresh new look to the seats soon.

### Tracy Lawrence

Keep July 20 open on your calendar! Coming to the stage in the Auditorium is Country Singer Tracy Lawrence. Producing hit after hit, it promises to be a night of great country music. After releasing a new CD in April his music is again climbing the CMT charts. Just call 651-8541 for all of the ticket information. Also check our website at [www.sturgesyoung.com](http://www.sturgesyoung.com) for any updates and information on what is going on in the building. We are in the planning stages for many other events in the coming months.

### Sunday Buffets

Sundays are a day to sit back and let us do the cooking for you. Every Sunday we have the Breakfast Buffet. At 9:30 a.m. we start the day with breakfast at \$7.50 per person. If you prefer lunch, that is available at 11:30 a.m. and is \$9.50 per person. If you aren't sure which you would like, you can have both for \$12.50 per person. Children's prices are also available. We are open until 1:30 p.m. so come and join us for a delicious meal which you enjoy while we take care of all the preparation



Tracy Lawrence to perform July 20 at the Sturges-Young Auditorium.



Tuesday, July 3rd, 2007

Kirsch Municipal Airport

Sturgis, MI

5 p.m. - Midnight

FREE ADMISSION!

Sponsored by the the Exchange Club of  
Sturgis and the  
Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce

Fireworks — BBQ Ribs — Beer Tent  
Music — Food Vendors

## A Note on Swimming Pools: Building Permit Required

Before installing a swimming pool, please be familiar with building codes. According to Michigan Residential Building Code Section Ag 102.1 and 105.1, a pool is any structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing that contains water over 24 inches (610 mm) deep. This includes in-ground, above-ground and on-ground swimming pools, hot tubs and spas. Please note that this includes the portable, inflatable pools with a 24 inch depth capability.

According to location requirements, pools may be placed in the side or rear yard only. Six foot required setbacks are required from side and rear lines. For further information contact the Community Development Department at (269) 659-7230.

Electric wire clearance must also be considered for both above ground and buried service. For information, contact Tim Charles at the City Electric Department at (269) 659-7217.

Barrier requirements also mandate the use of a 48 inch minimum height fence with a latching gate around any pool. For further information, contact the Community Development Department at (269) 659-7230. Thank you.

## Doyle Community Center Notes

### Summer Programs

The Doyle Community Center will be offering the following summer programs. For information on these and other programs, please contact the Doyle Community Center at 659-8110.

#### Summer Adventure Club

For boys and girls ages 6-12. FREE! To take place Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-noon or 1-4 p.m. June 18-August 10. Registration: June 4-9 at the Doyle Community Center.

#### Summer Tennis Camp

For boys and girls ages 5 years-high school. Monday-Thursday. Session 1: June 18-July 5; Session 2: July 9-July 26; Session 3: July 30-August 16. Register at the Doyle Community Center.

#### Children's Tae Kwon Do

For boys and girls ages 5-10. Session starts the week of July 9. Sign up now at the Doyle Community Center.

### Parks & Recreation Plan

The City of Sturgis is in the process of updating its five-year Community Parks & Recreation Plan. A very important part of this process is gathering information from the residents of the City of Sturgis. A public forum will be conducted 7-9 p.m. on Thursday, July 12, at the Sturges-Young Auditorium to discuss what the residents of Sturgis would like to see regarding park & recreation opportunities. You are invited to attend! Your input is greatly appreciated! The information we gather at this forum will help us plan for the current and future needs of the Sturgis residents regarding quality of life items such as parks & recreation activities. For further information or questions, please contact Mike Liston, Recreation Leader, at (269) 659-8110.

## DDA Notes

Warm weather is here and that means its time for Fun Fridays in downtown Sturgis to resume. Look for live music each Friday from June 15 to August 31 in Free Church Park. Here is what is planned so far:

- June 15 — "Reconciled"
- June 22 — "Vedette"
- June 29 — Grace Christian Fellowship
- July 6 — "Jay Stacy Band"
- July 13 — "Pyro Ma Ma"
- July 20 — To be announced
- July 27 — Classic Country
- Aug. 3 — "Tom Garn"
- Aug. 10 — "Wasepi Bluegrass Band"

Also look for the following events in downtown Sturgis this summer. Sidewalk Sales will take place July 27 and 28 and the U.S. 12 Garage Sale will be held August 10 and 11. The Art Bounce will be July 20 and the Quilt Stroll will be August 17 and 18.

For further information, or to participate in any of these events, contact the DDA at 651-1907.



## Phones For Life

On March 28, 2007, Sturgis Police announced a new program called "Phones for Life." Sturgis VIP's (Volunteers in Policing) oversee the program, a portion of which includes collecting used, discarded cell phones. These phones are shipped back to the "Phones for Life" organization where they are recycled for parts such as battery contents. Proceeds from the recycling help Phones for Life purchase new phones that they make available to the elderly, disabled and domestic assault victims in need of either 9-1-1 only phones or phones with a limited number of minutes.

Sturgis Public Safety Director Dave Northrop stated, "This program allows seniors and those with special needs to feel more secure about living and traveling independently."

The program actually consists of three parts, added Director Northrop.

**Part 1** - To promote the opportunity for those needing phones as a way of providing security and improving their quality of life.

**Part 2** - To provide a drop-off point at the Sturgis Police Department for donated phones to be sent to Phones For Life for recycling.

**Part 3** - To educate and promote the use of an "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) designation on anyone's phone that identifies phone numbers of family members, care takers or medical resources to call in an emergency. The goal is to educate both the public as well as emergency responders to this resource. In a case where a person is incapacitated and even their identity is unknown, this could be a valuable tool for emergency responders as well as the victim.

Jim Cook, the VIP coordinator at the Sturgis Police Department, reports that in the first 30 days, VIP's have collected 31 phones that are being shipped to Phones for Life to support this program.

Applications for either the 9-1-1 only phones or the Phones with Minutes are available to qualified applicants at the Sturgis Police Department. The Police Department is encouraging citizens who have old phones they are no longer using to donate them at the Sturgis Police Department to help fund this project for the community. Monetary donations are also accepted but should be sent directly to Phones For Life. Donations are tax deductible. Information is available by contacting the Sturgis Police Department or on-line at [www.Phones4Life.org](http://www.Phones4Life.org).



VIP coordinator Jim Cook, right, and VIP volunteer John Brummet package up the recent collection of phones for shipping.

## A Look at the Business Development Team

### Value Statement:

The Business Development Team seeks to facilitate growth that protects public health and safety as well as the property rights and values of Sturgis citizens. With a specific focus on new business ventures, the BDT strives to educate and guide prospects on how to achieve compliance with State and City laws and provide information regarding incentive opportunities that may be available.

### Program Highlights:

1. BDT consists of key staff members that will assist your project.
2. BDT will develop a resource guide for your project.
3. A BDT leader will be assigned to help facilitate and minimize referrals.

Complete program guidelines are available at [www.ci.sturgis.mi.us](http://www.ci.sturgis.mi.us)

### Fast Tracker Definition:

The Fast Tracker serves as a tool to better assist with understanding regulations for frequently asked questions such as items that require a building permit.

### Contact Information:

Assistant City Manager/Business Development Team Leader Todd Campbell  
City of Sturgis  
130 N. Nottawa  
Sturgis, MI 49091  
Phone: (269) 659-7234  
Fax: (269) 659-7295  
E-mail: [bdt@ci.sturgis.mi.us](mailto:bdt@ci.sturgis.mi.us)



## Summer Reminders from the Sturgis Police Department

### Fireworks

In Michigan the only fireworks that are legal are those that remain on the ground and do not give off a loud "pop". Examples are sparklers, fountains and Chinese flowers. Fireworks such as bottle rockets, M80s, Blackcats and Mortars are all illegal in Michigan. The penalty for possessing and/or careless or negligent use of illegal fireworks is a misdemeanor or even a felony, should injury occur, per Michigan law.

### Bikes, Rollerblades and Skateboards Downtown

Just a reminder since the weather is getting nicer and it is the time of year for bike rides: Bikes, skateboards and roller blades are all banned from being ridden downtown on the sidewalks. The rest of the sidewalks in town are fine to ride on, however. It is from Monroe Street to Jefferson Street that they are not allowed.

## Sturgis District Library's Summer Reading Program 2007

### SUMMER READING CLUBS

Read & Earn Prizes!

June 13 — August 10, 2007

Read-to-Me — Babies to Kindergarten

Grade School — 1st to 5th Grade

Teen Detectives — 6th Grade to High School

Sign up starts June 13, 2007, at the library.

### STORY TIMES

Two-Year Olds

Mondays at 10 a.m.

June 25 — July 23, 2007

Ages 3-6

Tuesdays at 10 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.

June 26 — July 24, 2007

### MYSTERY MOVIES

Fridays, June 15 & 29, July 13 & 27  
10 a.m.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Friday, August 10

10 a.m. — Steven's Puppets

1 p.m. — Teen Pizza Party

Check out our new website: [www.sturgis-library.org](http://www.sturgis-library.org)

## Notes from the Public Services Department

**NOTICE:** Please do not place grass clippings in the gutter pan or on the roadway. When it rains the grass clippings block the catch basins, and the rain water then floods the City Street. Grass clippings may be taken to the compost site for disposal.

The City compost site on East Fawn River Road is open Mondays and Thursdays from noon to 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The compost site accepts brush, grass clippings, wood chips and leaves. Compost material is available at the site.

The City of Sturgis provides brush pick-up to its residents beginning on Monday of the first full week of each month, April through October. Please have brush neatly stacked in the terrace area, away from trees or signs, by 7 a.m. the day of pick-up.

**FOR SAFETY REASONS PLEASE DO NOT PLACE BRUSH OR LEAVES IN THE ROADWAY.**

This monthly pick-up is for BRUSH ONLY. Grass clippings, leaves, roots, thorn-bearing branches, tree trunks, stumps and building materials WILL NOT BE COLLECTED.

If you have any questions concerning brush pick-up or the compost site, please call the City DPS Building at 651-2879.



# Sturgis Fire Department Lockbox Program

The Sturgis Fire Department is pleased to announce a new program. Thanks to a grant from the Sturgis Area Community Foundation, we were able to purchase residential "lockboxes". Because we provide rescue services for the Sturgis community, we regularly receive requests from senior citizens and disabled residents to keep a key to their house incase they are "unable to get to a door and let us in". Since we receive many of these requests, it is very difficult to keep everyone's keys separate and secure. The boxes we have purchased with this grant will be placed at an individual's home and will have a key locked securely inside. The box may be accessed strictly by fire department personnel in the event of an emergency.



**Cost**  
There is no cost at this time for a residential lockbox (thanks to a grant from the Sturgis Area Community Foundation).

Anyone interested in this program should contact the City of Sturgis Fire Department at 659-7257. Fire Department personnel will make an appointment to install the lockbox. There are a limited number of lockboxes, which will be issued on a case-by-case basis.

**What is a Residential Lockbox?**  
A lockbox is a heavy metal box, which is hooked to your doorknob. The lockbox contains a key to your home. The box is locked by a special key, which only the Sturgis Fire Department has access to. These boxes are extremely safe and durable. The approximate size of the lockbox is 2 inches by 4 inches with a black exterior.

**Why have a Lockbox?**  
In the event of an emergency, the fire department can use their special key to open the lockbox and access your house key to gain entry into your home, without having to break a door or window.

**Who is Eligible?**  
Independent City of Sturgis residents who are senior citizens age 55 or older OR permanently, or temporarily, disabled City of Sturgis residents can qualify for this program. Persons applying for this program must live in a one or two family residential building.

**Advantages**  
Having a lockbox can add precious lifesaving minutes during an emergency. It can also save on property damage that gaining entry without a key may cause.

## To Our Valued Customers: Rates to Increase

In 2006, an extensive study was prepared by Utility Financial Solutions to assist the City with the forecasting of revenue requirements to maintain our current water and wastewater systems and to provide for future maintenance costs and capital expenditures. A four-year plan of rate adjustments was approved effective June 1, 2006. This is the second increase of that plan.

The second increase will be effective with bills mailed June 1, 2007. The water volume charge remains the same, \$2.02 per thousand gallons up to 50,000 gallons and \$1.72 per thousand gallons over 50,000 for City residents and \$4.04 per thousand gallons for rural residents. The wastewater charge will increase from \$2.89 per thousand gallons to \$3.17 per thousand gallons; an increase of 28 cents per 1000 gallons. Flat rates for water will increase \$2.50 per month inside the City and \$5.00 per month outside the City. The flat sewer rate will increase \$2.95 per month.

It is the goal of the City to keep our costs at a minimum while still maintaining the system and providing our customers with the best possible service. Questions regarding this increase may be directed to customer service by calling (269) 651-7231 and (269) 659-7232.

### INSIDE THIS EDITION OF The Sturgis Wire

From the City Manager's Desk.....	1
Regional Recommendations - EDC.....	1
Auditorium / Doyle / DDA .....	2
A Note on Swimming Pools .....	2
Library News / Phones for Life .....	3
Public Service Dept. Notes.....	3

**MISSION STATEMENT**  
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.

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

### STURGIS CITY COMMISSION

**UPCOMING CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS**  
2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month – 7:30 p.m.  
City Hall, 130 N. Nottawa Street



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 Sturgis Wire

City of Sturgis  
130 N. Nottawa  
Sturgis, MI 49091

www.ci.sturgis.mi.us

CURRENT  
RESIDENT

PRSRT STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Sturgis, MI  
Permit No. 4