**SEPTEMBER 2007 VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3** www.ci.sturgis.mi.us

### **Notes from the Department of Public Services**

Please note the following schedules. If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Public Services at 651-2879 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

#### **Hydrant Flushing Schedule**

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. 18: THE AREA SOUTH OF EAST CHICAGO ROAD AND EAST OF SOUTH NOTTAWA STREET.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 19: SOUTH OF WEST CHICAGO ROAD AND WEST OF SOUTH NOTTAWA STREET.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 20: NORTH OF EAST CHICAGO ROAD AND EAST OF NORTH NOTTAWA STREET.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 21: 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.

#### 2007 Fall Leaf Pick-up Schedule

The Department of Public Services will begin our 18th year of leaf pickup and community composting program. DPS crews will begin picking up leaves on Monday, October 22, following the same route as they do with brush pick-up. They will start north of Chicago Road and west of North Nottawa Street, 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.

It would be very helpful for residents to have the 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 our composting system, we prefer that you do not put leaves in bags. If you choose to put leaves in bags, please call the DPS office at 651-2879 and let us know so we can make arrangements to pick them up as our schedule permits. Bagged leaves may be taken to the City's compost site during scheduled hours. However, you must dump the leaves from the bags, as bags are not accepted at the site. We encourage you to use the compost site for disposal of your leaves, grass clippings and brush. The City's compost site on E. 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. through Saturday, October 20. After that date the compost site will close on Mondays and Thursday's at 5:30 p.m. through the remainder of the season. The last day for the compost site to be open will be Monday, November 19, unless the ground is covered with snow before then.

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#### 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 For Its Citizens

130 N. Nottawa St Sturgis, MI 49091 269.651.2321 www.ci.sturgis.mi.us

#### 2007 Brush Pick-up Schedule

The City of Sturgis provides brush pick-up to its residents the first full week of each month, April through October. The final brush pick-up of 2007 will begin Monday, October 1. We ask that if you have brush to be hauled away, that it 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

This monthly pick-up is for BRUSH ONLY. We will not be collecting grass clippings, leaves, roots, thorn-bearing branches, tree trunks, stumps or building materials. For those of you who have the means to transport materials, the City's compost site does accept brush, grass clippings, wood chips and leaves. Composted material is available at the site for your use. Thank you for allowing us to serve you!







## U.S. 12 Project The New Downtown Sturgis



### **Kickoff Celebration**

You are cordially invited to the New Downtown Sturgis Kickoff Celebration Friday, September 14, 2007 at Free Church Park



11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. • Comments from City & DDA officials, MDOT,

- State Senator Brown, State Representative Shaffer
- Presentation of plaques of appreciation
- · Cake & punch

1 p.m. to 5 p.m. • Hot dogs and popcorn in Downtown Sturgis

Hope to see you there!

#### STURGIS CITY COMMISSION

**UPCOMING CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS** 

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



Karl Littman

Precinct 4



Kenneth Malone

Precinct 3









Commissioner Karen Stephens

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The Sturgis Wire

City of Sturgis 130 N. Nottawa Sturgis, MI 49091

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## 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

**SEPTEMBER 2007** 

www.ci.sturgis.mi.us

**VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3** 

## **Sturgis Industries Expand**

Great news to share from the Sturgis Economic Development Corporation! Two local industries, LTi Printing and Sturgis Molded Products Co., have recently completed expansion projects. Here is an overall description of those projects.

#### LTi Printing

LTi Printing, a locally owned and operated printer of pressure sensitive labels and folding cartons, recently completed a building expansion and improvement project. The facility additions and remodeling targeted enhancements to product flow and material storage efficiency. The largest building addition provided ground level access, four loading dock structures, provisions for a waste compactor, and a new chemical storage room. A key element was the large staging area for improved material receiving and product shipments to destinations throughout the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Building improvements included the reclaiming of internal truck docks to utilize the floor space and higher ceilings for



maintenance staff at LTi Printing pose in front of new loading docks, a part of the company's recent expansion project.

storage efficiency. This successful project was achieved with special cooperation from corporate neighbor Parma Tube and the City of Sturgis. A sincere thank you also goes out to all LTi employees who continued to produce quality product during this time of construction.

#### **Sturgis Molded Products Co.**

Sturgis Molded Products Co. was founded in 1966 by Paul P. Clark, Sr. The company provides custom thermoplastic injection molding and mold making to a variety of customers ranging from Tier 1 automotive suppliers like Lear and Johnson Controls to Ross Products Division of Abbott. In order to expand the company's capabilities, significant investments recently have added 15,000 sq. ft. of manufacturing space, an overhead crane, and several higher tonnage molding machines to produce larger parts. SMP



A peek inside the new manufacturing space at Sturgis Molded Products Co.

now occupies approximately 145,000 sq. ft., is TS 16949 quality certified, and uses a fully integrated ERP system to support its business. Sturgis Molded Products has many loyal employees, some with over 25 years of service, and is one of the top industrial employers in the city.

In 2004, a Community Development Block Grant from the State of Michigan made it possible for the City of Sturgis to meet it's commitment to provide sanitary sewer service to Sturgis Molded Products and the remainder of the Wade Street industrial park. From an economic development perspective, this is a good illustration of how important it is to work with local companies in retaining their growth here in the community.



## **Doyle Notes**The Doyle Community Center will soon be offering the following programs. For

information on these and other programs, please contact the Doyle at 659-8110. Children's Tae Kwon Do — For ages 5-7. Begins September 18. Classes held

**Children's Tae Kwon Do** — For ages 8-10. Begins September 20. Classes held Mondays and Thursdays.

Youth Tennis Classes — For ages 5 yrs. to High School. Begins the week of October 15. Adult Tae Kwon Do — Begins September 20. Classes held Mondays and Thursdays.

**Men's Indoor Soccer** — Information packets available October 1. Entry deadline is October 19. Games played indoors on Sunday afternoons.

Coed 6 on 6 Volleyball — Information packets available October 30. Entry deadline is November 20. Games played on Tuesday nights beginning December

> Also, don't forget the Big Buck Contest! October 1 - December 31 Have your Buck scored at the Doyle Center for a chance to win lots of prizes! FREE!

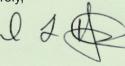
## From the City Manager's Desk:

#### **City to Unveil Electronic Newsletter**

One of the greatest challenges that any organization faces is the ability to effectively communicate with its stakeholders both internal and external. Particularly with the advent of the Internet, the speed of information has increased exponentially. The average person is inundated with hundreds of advertisements a day, news reports that are updated by the minute, and discussion of every topic imaginable on Internet blogs and TV/radio talk shows. The City of Sturgis uses traditional means of communicating through public forums, newspaper and radio and more contemporary ways with a website and a City newsletter, the Sturgis Wire.

In an effort to improve communication and provide citizenry with timely, useful and accurate information, the City of Sturgis has developed an electronic newsletter titled E-Wire that will be distributed via email. The variety of information planned for the E-Wire will include construction and project updates, reports on City activities, emergency information, public input opportunities, and upcoming events. There are a number of benefits to developing an electronic newsletter such as the timeliness that information can be provided and the minimal expense in producing. We believe that it is our responsibility to ensure that citizens and businesses are well informed of community issues. We also plan to use the E-Wire as an opportunity to provide information on topics of interest. If you would like to be better informed about what is happening in the City of Sturgis, go to the website at www.ci.mi. sturgis.us and sign up for the E-Wire today. If there is certain information that you believe would be beneficial to include in the E-Wire, please email me at mhughes@ci.sturgis.mi.us.





Michael L. Hughes

## **Experience Sturgis Festival!**

October 6th offers citizens of Sturgis a chance to celebrate and learn about the community's past by participating in the 1st Annual Experience Sturgis Festival: a one-day event highlighting the unique history of downtown Sturgis' buildings and businesses. The effort is led by the Experience Sturgis Committee, a collaboration of downtown merchants, the Sturgis Journal, the Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Development Authority, the Sturgis Historical Society, the Downtown Sturgis Association, and the City of Sturgis.

The Festival features a variety of events and activities in and around downtown. Starting at 9:30 a.m., the Strand Theater will host three showings of Sturgis, A Place We've Always Called Home, a documentary about Sturgis history produced and directed by two area residents. Also featured is a local History Walk, a guided tour of area businesses whose buildings have unique historical value to Sturgis. For those unable to make the guided tour, brochures will be available for self-guided history walks, with commemorative plaques marking each location. To culminate the Festival, the Sturgis Wind Symphony and guest vocalists will perform at the Sturges-Young Auditorium

These are only a small sample of the events available. Throughout the day, downtown businesses and community organizations will also feature activities such as a biscuit baking contest at the Corner Café (a nod to Sturgis' naming); a reading of the "Legend of Chief White Pigeon" at Lowry's Books, a telling of the Sturgis Family History at the Sturgis Public Library; and Tea in honor of Perle Mesta, a Sturgis native internationally known as the "Hostess with the Mostess". The Festival is a chance for everyone from longtime residents to area newcomers to learn about the history of the community and truly "Experience Sturgis." Contact Sharon Matkin at 659-8894 for a complete listing of events and come join in the fun!

## **Wiesloch Trip Planned**

The Sturgis Sister City Committee is in the early planning stages for an exchange trip to its sister city, Wiesloch, Germany, during the Sturgis Public Schools' spring break, April 5-12, 2008.

The itinerary for and cost of the trip is yet to be determined. Anyone who is interested in joining the group may send an e-mail to sistercity@ci.sturgis.mi.us or call the City office at (269) 651-2321.

September is here and we are all preparing for another Michigan winter. We winterize our homes to keep out the cold, and to keep our heating bills at least manageable. When we secure our home to keep out the cold, we also eliminate a significant amount of fresh air exchange that we have in the summer with our doors and windows open. This act, though necessary, may cause carbon monoxide (CO) to be trapped inside your home. Here are some frequently asked questions about CO. What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, deadly gas. Because you can't see it, taste it, or smell it, carbon monoxide can kill you before you know it's there.

#### Who is at risk of carbon monoxide poisoning?

Everyone is at risk for carbon monoxide poisoning. Medical experts believe, however, that individuals with greater oxygen requirements such as unborn babies, infants, children, senior citizens, and people with coronary or respiratory problems are at greater risk.

#### What makes carbon monoxide so dangerous?

The great danger of carbon monoxide is its attraction to hemoglobin in the bloodstream. In simple terms, when inhaled, carbon monoxide bonds with hemoglobin in the blood, displacing the oxygen, which cells need to function. When CO is present in the air, it rapidly accumulates in the blood, forming a toxic compound. This toxic compound causes symptoms similar to the flu, such as headaches, fatigue, nausea, dizzy spells, confusion and irritability. As levels of this compound increase, vomiting, loss of consciousness, and eventually brain damage or death can result.

#### Where does carbon monoxide come from?

Carbon monoxide is a byproduct of incomplete combustion, present whenever fuel is burned. It is produced by common home appliances, such as gas or oil furnaces, clothes dryers, cooking ranges, ovens, water heaters or un-vented space heaters, fireplaces, charcoal grills and wood burning stoves. Fumes from automobiles also contain CO and can enter a home through walls or doorways if a car is left running in an attached garage. All of these sources can contribute to a CO problem in the home. What can I do to prevent CO in my home?

Have a qualified professional check all fuel burning appliances, furnaces, water heater venting, chimney systems, and heat exchangers at least once a year, or as recommended by the manufacturer. This check should be done before heating season each year. If you have an attached garage, do not run the car inside the garage for long periods to warm it up.

#### How can I guard my family from carbon monoxide poisoning?

If a home is vented properly and is free from appliance malfunctions, residents will most likely be safe from CO poisoning. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends installing at least one carbon monoxide detector with an audible alarm near each sleeping area. A detector on every level and in every bedroom provides extra protection. Remember a carbon monoxide detector is a purchase that could help save your life. Select an approved unit that is "listed" by a national organization such as Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL). For an extra margin of safety, choose a dual-powered (electric with battery back-up), extra sensitive unit that responds to lower levels of carbon monoxide and protects your family during a power outage.

#### What do I do if my Carbon Monoxide detector alarm goes off?

- First, get everyone out of the house.
- If anyone is feeling ill, acting strange, or unconscious call 9-1-1 immediately.
- If your alarm is going off and you do not have any symptoms, get out of the house, call St. Joseph County Central Dispatch at 467-4195 or 9-1-1 and ask them to notify the appropriate agency. Remember CO is invisible, odorless and tasteless. DO NOT TAKE ANY CHANCES.

For more information please contac the Sturgis Fire Department at 659-7257

## News From Sturgis District Library

Did you know that the library has:

- 1. 10 filtered internet access computers
- 2. 1 word processing computer
- 3. A wireless internet connection for your laptop
- 4. New Release DVDs \$1 for 3 days
  5. All other DVDs and videos for children, teens and adults including the American Film Institute's Top 100 Films free
- 6. Audio books
- 7. Large Print Books

with library card

- 8. Almost 100 magazine subscriptions9. 12 newspaper subscriptions
- 10. Books and movies in Spanish
- 11. Programs for all ages
- 12. Preschool story times
- 13. A History Room for genealogy research
- 14. The Sturgis Journal on microfilm from the 1800s to present
- 15. Michigan and Federal tax forms
- 16. A beautiful Children's Room with a game computer
- 17. An online catalog and library information at www.sturgis-library.org
- 18. Free library cards for residents of our district: Fawn River, Sherman, and Sturgis Townships and the City of Sturgis HOURS

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Thursday & Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Closed on Sundays

www.sturgis-library.org

## Look What's Happening at the Auditorium

We hope everyone had a safe and happy summer. With the coming of fall there are going to be many new and exciting things going on at Sturges-Young Auditorium. The Travelogue will begin in October. It is an exciting way to travel the world and never leave your seat.

We will have family tickets, season tickets, and individual tickets available. Before the show we always have a pre-show dinner, so please come let us do the cooking and you can enjoy a mini vacation from your seat.



The Sturgis Council of the Arts has released their line-up of exciting shows for the season. Their season starts with Eddie Caroll as Jack Benny in October and ends with War Bonds, a musical journey through World War II in April. In the months between, the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra & Rich Ridenour, Second City Comedy, America, Josh Gracin, and the The Merling Trio add to a great line-up. Individual tickets for these shows go on sale September 4, 2007. Call the Council of the Arts

office at 659-7211 or the Auditorium at 651-8541 for more information.

Many of you know that this is the last place that the great Duke Ellington

Many of you know that this is the last place that performed before his death. In conjunction with the Sturgis Historical Society and the Duke Ellington Society in Belgium we are planning for the fall a special tribute to Mr. Ellington. At

a day and time to be announced we will unveil a marker to commemorate this great man. Watch for details to be announced.

Also, the Experience Sturgis Festival is in the works for Oct. 6. You can start the day at the Strand Theater with a movie by Mike Mort about Sturgis, then visit the businesses in our downtown and end the day at the auditorium with a free concert by the Sturgis Wind Symphony. Donations will be accepted and go towards the "Best Seat in the House" campaign. So get out your calendar and add the date for family fun. More information will become available as plans are finalized.



Don't forget every Sunday we have the Sunday Buffet. From 9:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. we have an exciting array of good food for you and your family to come and enjoy. With family-friendly pricing and great food we want to make your time with us a dining pleasure, and don't forget, you don't have to do the dishes. We take care of that part for you. So come, sit back, visit with family and friends, relax and spend some time with us.

The buffet is open to the public and you do not need reservations. If you are coming with a large group, give us a call ahead of time and we will have the tables set for you to insure that your group will be able to be seated together. Are you planning a big event, a small meeting, or even something in-between? Give us a call and the staff at Sturges-Young Auditorium will be happy to help you plan a successful event. We can help you plan an elegant wedding reception or a simple, small meeting. It will be our pleasure to work with you to make your event a great success.

Our website, Sturgesyoung.com, is a great resource to keep up with all of the things going on in the building, or call our main line at 651-8541 for any questions or inquiries. We will be glad to assist you.

The Staff of the Auditorium would like to say a very big thank you to all of you who were involved in the very first Sturges-Young Pro-Am Golf Tournament. Whether you were a golfer, advertiser, volunteer, or if you donated money, prizes, or gave of your time, the event was a great success and we could never have done it without you. We are well on our way to being able to refurbish the seats in the auditorium. This grand building is something to be proud of. Just imagine the stories the walls could tell: watching youngsters learn to dance, weddings, class reunions, many meetings and various other functions. It is an important part of the history of Sturgis and surrounding communities. As you can see, there is always something exciting and fun going on here at Sturges-Young Auditorium. So come, participate in one or all of our exciting events. We will be thrilled to see you.

## News from the Downtown Development Authority

Mark your calendars! The following events will be taking place this fall in downtown Sturgis:



Experience Sturgis
Saturday, October 6
from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
in all of downtown Sturgis

Art BOUNCE Friday, October 19 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.



at Open Door Gallery, Willer's Shoes, McGrady Jewelers, Panache, and Trio's Deli

Halloween in Downtown Sturgis
Thursday, October 31

#### SEPTEMBER 2007 www.ci.sturgis.mi.us



## **Local Business Spotlight**





**VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3** 

The Downtown Development Authority, Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Sturgis are partnering to help promote local businesses. The Sturgis Wire will feature a new section titled, "Local Business Spotlight". The purpose of the "Local Business Spotlight" is to promote newsworthy items about new and existing businesses. Our hope is 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 <a href="mailto:tcampbell@ci.sturgis.mi.us">tcampbell@ci.sturgis.mi.us</a>. He can also be contacted at 659-7234.

Carol Ann Pattengale repairs a bike at The Kickstand.

#### The Kickstand - 1240 E. Chicago Road

The Kickstand Schwinn Cyclery was established in 1981 by Phil and Carol Ann Pattengale and specializes in the sale of name-brand bicycles and fitness equipment. They sell a variety of bike styles including juvenile, BMX, all-terrain, comfort, hybrid, road, recumbent, tandem, and three-wheelers from seven high-quality manufacturers. They also sell exercise bikes, treadmills and ellipticals. In addition to bike sales, The Kickstand also repairs all makes and models of bicycles, a part of the business that started with Carol

Ann repairing bikes out of the family's garage as a home-based business. The Pattengales see the advantages of The Kickstand as the quality of their products, their expertise in assembly and repair, and their ability to offer a wide range of bicycle sizes, ensuring that the customer has a bicycle that fits them correctly. The Kickstand's slogan "We seat you right!" says it all!

#### Aqua-Clear, Inc. - 1303 E. Chicago Road

When Jim and Diane Moshier came to Sturgis in 1974, Jim's primary job was as the original Director of the Sturgis Community Pool and his home-based pool and spa business served a dozen customers. Today that parttime job has become Aqua-Clear, a full-time business serving hundreds of customers and specializing in the sale and service of pools, spas, and saunas. In addition to selling new units, chemicals, and equipment, Aqua-Clear is certified and licensed by the State to provide services such as comprehensive water testing, unit cleaning, and chemical maintenance. While



Jim Moshier, owner of Aqua-Clear, demonstrates one of the dozen tests his business can perform on the water of pools and spas.

many chain stores sell pools and spas or the chemicals to maintain them, Aqua-Clear has the expertise to educate its customers about pool chemistry and material safety, ensuring the customer gets the proper materials and knowledge to have their pool, spa, or sauna ready anytime they want to relax.

From left, It's a Dog's World owners Shari Haggard, Wendy Stevens and April Klopfenstein oversee the grooming of one of their clients.

#### It's a Dog's World - 172 W. Chicago Road

It's a Dog's World is a business that lives up to its name as a place for all things canine. The shop offers a variety of services, including dog grooming, overnight boarding, and "doggy daycare" where dogs can come to spend the day and socialize in the store's play area when their owners are at work or out on the town. In addition to its services, It's a Dog's World also features a selection of retail products for dogs such as dog toys and pet apparel as well as a pet bakery specializing in homemade dog treats. Though the shop is new to Sturgis, its owners, Shari Haggard, April Klopfenstein, and Wendy Stevens have several years between them in the dog care business. Beyond the quality grooming and other services they provide to dog

owners, It's a Dog's World also helps dogs find owners by co-hosting pet adoption days and offering services assisting individuals looking to sell puppies.

## Police Department to Unveil New Website

The Sturgis Police Department is in the process of unveiling a new and improved website. According to Director of Public Safety David Northrop, there are three goals for the upgraded website. First, the site aims to provide citizens and businesses with resources on various subjects from handling nuisance complaints to domestic violence, identifying counterfeit money, and dealing with identity theft. Second goal of the site is to let citizens know what services are offered by the department. Lastly, the updated website will serve as a recruiting tool during hiring in the Police Department.

Sturgis Police have been working with local web developer Amy Frost (estudiodesign) to upgrade the site to be utilized as a useful tool. As our community relies more on computers and the internet this is an important tool that connects our citizens to the department in a positive way.

# Gios. deli 369-651-701

From left, owners Dan Scott, Brett Miller, and Anthony Moreno of Trio's Deli, outside their restaurant.

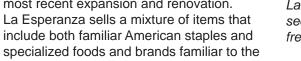
#### Trio's Deli – 107 S. Maple Street

Featuring a menu of soups, salads, and sandwiches as well as breakfast and coffees, Trio's Deli serves its food in a laid-back atmosphere where its owners, Anthony Moreno, Brett Miller, and Dan Scott, aim to have customers leave satisfied and with a smile on their faces. Sandwiches such as the Grilled Stacked Reuben and Californian Delight stand out on a menu of traditional favorites, each of which can be ordered as a wrap or Panini. An early favorite with customers is The Sturgis Vineyard salad, topped with chicken breast, fetta cheese, apples, dried cherries, roasted almonds, tomato, and raspberry

vinaigrette. For the owners, their new business is a chance to become a greater part of the Sturgis community, providing residents both young and old a place to hang out and at the same time enjoy some excellent food.

#### La Esperanza – 300 N. Centerville Road

When La Esperanza opened its doors 12 years ago, the grocery store was a small establishment catering largely to Sturgis' Hispanic community. In the intervening years Jose Lopez, the owner of La Esperanza, has grown both the business and the store, with this past August marking the third and most recent expansion and renovation.





La Esperanza's produce section, offering a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Hispanic community. The store includes amenities such as a lunch counter and fresh bakery, as well as dairy, meat, and fresh produce sections that feature a variety of items, many which are not available in a typical grocery store. While La Esperanza maintains close ties to the Hispanic community, it welcomes all residents of Sturgis to come and see what they have to offer; good quality foods at a fair price.

## **Electric Rates to Change**

The City of Sturgis entered into a new wholesale power supply contract in July of 2006. A cost of service study was conducted to see if the existing electric rates generated sufficient revenue to cover the cost of operations. Utility Financial Solutions of Holland, Michigan, was chosen to conduct the study. Mr. Mark Beauchamp, representing Utility Financial Solutions, provided a draft report to the City Commission on July 24, 2007. The study indicated that, in total, the current electric rates generate adequate revenue to fund Electric Department operations through the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009. In 2010 and 2011, the City should consider increasing overall revenues by 1.25

Although overall revenues are adequate, the study indicated that not all rates generate adequate revenue. As in the Goldilocks story, some rates generate too much revenue, some too little, and some are just right. As a result, the electric rates will be adjusted annually. The adjustments will be designed to be revenue neutral. That is, they will not increase or decrease overall Electric Fund revenues and they will be limited to no more than two (2) percent per year

For several years, the City has included a Power Cost Adjustment Factor, or PCAF, in its monthly electric bills. This factor is a charge or credit to the monthly electric bills based on whether the City's wholesale power cost is more or less than the wholesale power cost used in the cost of service study. Here, the study indicated that a change in the base factor used to calculate the PCAF would result in a more equitable distribution of costs. As with the rate adjustments mentioned above, this change will not increase or decrease overall Electric Fund revenues.

On August 8, 2007, Utility Financial Solutions presented proposed electric rates to the Sturgis City Commission. The rates were adopted and will be put into effect for all electric bills due on and after October 1, 2007. For the average residential customer served under Rate A, the monthly electric bill will increase by approximately \$1.12. For the average rural residential customer served under Rate B, the increase will be approximately \$0.77. Commercial customers receiving service under Rate C will see no increase. The amount of the change for individual customers will be different from the average results. See the table below.

Electric Rate	Percent Change
Rate A	1.9%
Rate B	1.0%
Rate C	0.0%
Rate CAE	1.9%
Rate D	-1.8%
Rate PP	0.0%
Rate LPP	-1.3%

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