


EVERY COMMUNITY HAS A  
HEART.  
THIS IS OURS.

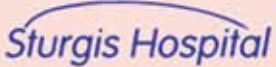


At the center of every community is something whose activity keeps it vital. Something whose strong, rhythmic beat can be used as a measure of the community's health. Something that sets the standard for human caring and compassion. Something that helps us grow, helps us reach, helps us learn, helps us live.

Every community has a heart. Sturgis Hospital is ours.

And, like your heart, our community's heart works best when we keep it healthy. By exercising it – making sure we make it our first choice for the kind of care at which it excels. By nourishing it – with our attention, our time and, occasionally, our contributions. And by respecting its limits – understanding why it's here and what it should and should not do.

For more than 80 years, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the heart of our community has been beating strongly. And it will continue to beat for generations to come – if you support it. To learn how, visit: [everycommunityhasaheart.org](http://everycommunityhasaheart.org).



## Auditorium has the Cure for Cabin Fever

When there's a chill in the air, there is no better place to be than in a seat at the Auditorium! This winter Sturges-Young Auditorium is providing you plenty of incentive to brave the cold with offerings to beat the winter blues. The Travel Adventure Series continues on, visiting St. Vincent & the Grenadines on Tuesday January 20th and Hawaii: the Pacific Paradise on February 16th. Come on over and enjoy a trip around the country, all without paying for a plane ticket. Also this winter, the Auditorium is sponsoring "The Kingdom Heirs" a Gospel music group on January 24th.

On February 7th, the Sturgis Council of the Arts will host Jimmy Dillon, South Haven native, guitarist, and singer at the Auditorium. Featuring a musical repertoire that is worldly, eclectic, and deeply soulful, his style hits genres that include funky blues, rock, and Latin. If you plan on attending on 7th, make an evening of it with the pre-show dinner at the Auditorium, which always features a choice of excellent dishes prepared by our top-notch staff.

And if you love food (and who doesn't) the Auditorium will have pies available for the holidays for those who do not wish to bake; call the Auditorium for the list and to order. Be sure to also stop by on Sundays for Brunch. For more information or tickets to any of our events, contact the Auditorium at (269) 651-8541.



Jimmy Dillon at  
Sturges-Young Auditorium  
Saturday, Feb. 7th

### INSIDE THIS EDITION OF

# The Sturgis Wire

Winter Time in Sturgis / Tree Disposal .....	1
City Manager's Message .....	2
Electric Car / Winter Events .....	2
Local Business Spotlight .....	3
Fire Inspection / Doyle Winter Schedule .....	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



For Its Citizens  
**130 N. Nottawa St.  
Sturgis, MI 49091  
269.651.2321  
[www.ci.sturgis.mi.us](http://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  
John Carmichael  
Precinct 1



Vice Mayor  
Barbara Fisher  
Precinct 3



Commissioner  
Michael Gay  
At-Large



Commissioner  
Karl Littman  
Precinct 4



Commissioner  
Caralee Mayer  
Precinct 1



Commissioner  
Kenneth Malone  
Precinct 3



Commissioner  
Karen Stephens  
Precinct 2



Commissioner  
Ina Taulbee  
Precinct 2



Commissioner  
Suzanne Walters  
Precinct 4

## The Sturgis Wire

City of Sturgis  
130 N. Nottawa  
Sturgis, MI 49091

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

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
LAKE MICHIGAN MAILERS  
49009

\*\*\* ECRWSS \*\*\*

POSTAL  
CUSTOMER



# 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)

DECEMBER 2008

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

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 4

## Winter Time in Sturgis: Get Ready for Snow

With winter in full swing, it is important to remember with the change in season also comes a need to change our habits. Winter weather means roads and sidewalks are snow covered or icy, and that City snow plows will need to be out early and often to ensure the best possible road conditions. Please help out the City and your neighbors and remember the following tips and City Ordinances during the winter season.



#### Snow Plowing and Salting

Department of Public Services (DPS) crews begin snow removal when it accumulates to around two inches. If you must drive during a snowstorm, use caution and don't follow too closely behind the City's snow removal equipment; if you can't see the truck driver's mirrors, they can't see you. This will help crews prevent accidents. If possible, give the equipment operator the right of way. It will make his job easier and allow him to make the roadway as safe as possible as quickly as possible for all drivers. City crews also apply salt to the roadway when it becomes slippery. They will first apply salt to state highways within the City limits and to all City intersections. City streets could be slippery between intersections, so if it is snowing, slow down and give yourself plenty of room to stop.

#### Snow Emergency Routes

During snowfalls of four or more inches or when there is a forecast stating that we may receive over four inches of snow and/or ice, the City Manager may declare a Snow Route Emergency to allow snow plows to clear off critical City streets as quickly as possible.

During a Snow Emergency, only emergency vehicles (Police, Fire, DPS) should be on the road, as other traffic increases driving hazards and slows down cleanup operations; unless it is an emergency, please stay at home. During a declared emergency, parking is also prohibited on any City street designated as a snow emergency route. The emergency stays in effect until the City Manager cancels it with a public announcement or the street has been cleared from side to side. The map identifies the City's current designated routes.

For streets not listed as snow emergency routes, alternate parking is in effect during a snow emergency. During this time parking is prohibited on the even side of the street (the side with even-addressed houses) during even days of the month and parking is prohibited on the odd side of the street during odd days. For example, on December 19th cars would not be allowed to park on the odd side of the street during a snow emergency.

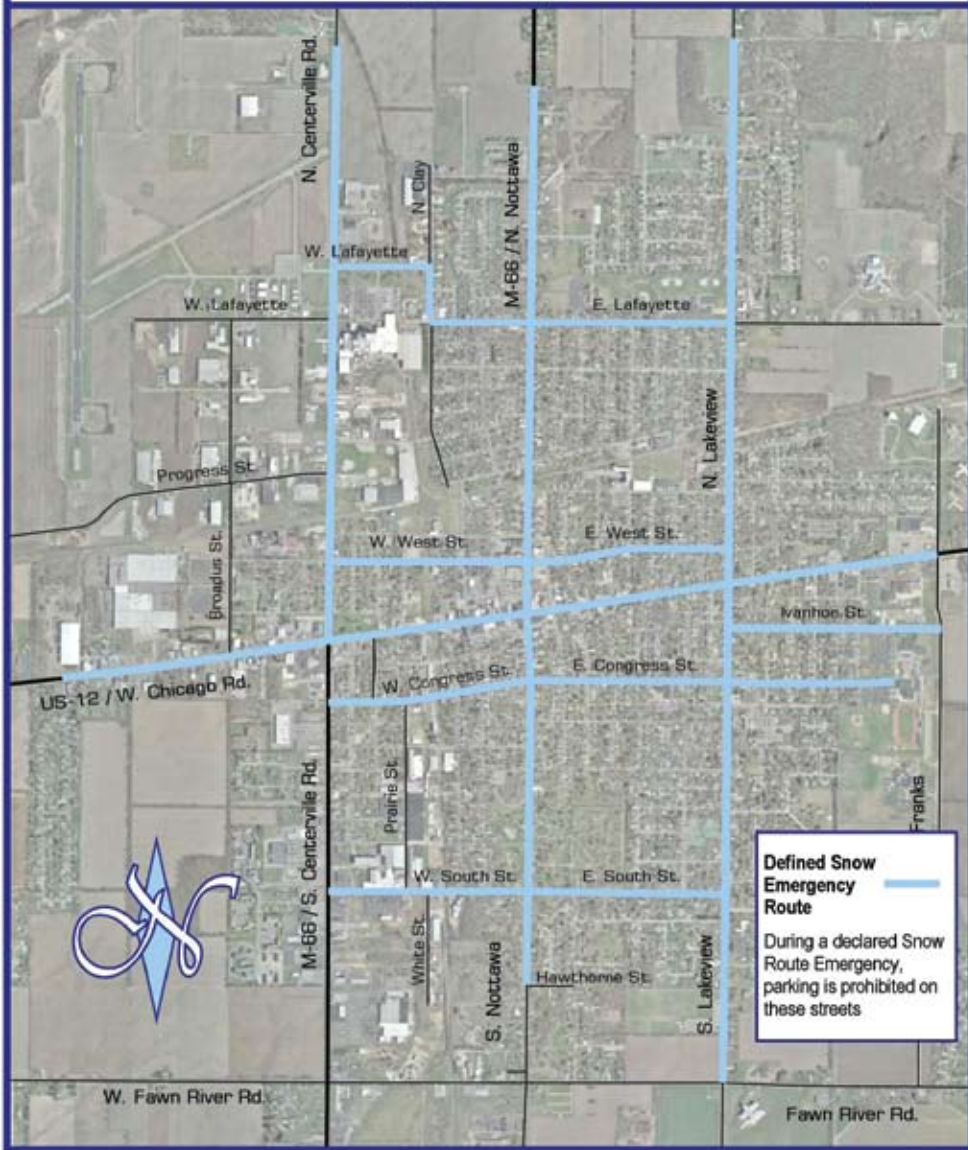
#### City Sidewalks

During any snow, citizens are required to keep their sidewalks clear of snow, ice, or other nuisances for the safety of everyone who may wish to walk, jog, or otherwise utilize City sidewalks. Too many times people are forced to walk in the roadway, causing a danger to themselves as well as drivers.

According to City Ordinance, sidewalks cannot be obstructed "for a period of more than 24 consecutive hours" by snow, ice, or other debris. The police department will take a special look at sidewalks that are used as routes for students traveling to and from school.

When clearing those sidewalks or your driveway, please don't push or pile the snow onto the roadway. Drivers hitting a pile of snow could lose control of their vehicle. During the long winter months we all need to work together to ensure the safety of our community's children and residents; both those who walk and those who drive. Please do your part so the City can do ours.

### Snow Emergency Route Map



## Christmas Tree Disposal



As a reminder, the City's compost site will be open starting January 1st for two weeks to allow residents to dispose of their old Christmas trees.

The gates to the site will be open, and an area will be clearly marked where they may be deposited. The City's compost site is located on Fawn River Road east of Sunnyfield Road.

## Holiday Recycling Schedule

Due to the fact that both Christmas Day and New Year's Day both fall on a Thursday this year, curbside recycling for both weeks will be moved to Friday. As always, be sure to have your recycling cart out early to ensure pickup. If you have any questions or issues, please call Borden Waste-Away Service Inc. at 1-800-386-3313.

**Christmas Day**, Thursday December 25th, 2008:  
Recycling Pickup SOUTH of US-12 on Friday, December 26th.

**New Years Day**, Thursday January 1st, 2009:  
Recycling Pickup NORTH of US-12 on Friday, January 2nd.



## A Message from the City Manager From Plans to Action

For a City Manager, nothing is more rewarding than witnessing the completion of projects. There is a tremendous amount of work necessary to plan a substantial project, including reviewing cost effective alternatives, garnering public input, identifying sources of funding, and coordinating with all of the project's partners. Over the past year and in the near future, Sturgis will experience the completion of infrastructure projects that in one form or another have been discussed and planned for several decades.

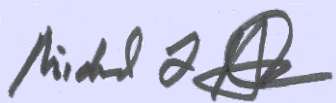
The cities that will thrive in the future are those that do the right things during difficult times. Infrastructure is the lifeblood of a community and investment in this infrastructure is critical. Currently, the waste water improvements of the 2007 State Revolving Fund (SRF) project are near completion. The project replaced the digester cover and outfall pipe that discharges wastewater from our treatment plant to the Fawn River, both improvements in serious need of attention. The 2007 DWRF (Drinking Water Revolving Fund) project has been completed this past year, improving our water system and fire flow pressures. This last year the City also completed about \$182,000 worth of street improvements with another \$673,000 to be completed in October of 2008. All of these projects are important infrastructure investments for the future of the community.

As a result of receiving a \$750,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation, the City is also currently underway with the review and design of alternatives for the M-66 Bypass project. Additionally, after nearly three years of planning, the 2008 SRF sewer improvement project is under construction, building the west side sewer interceptor that will accommodate Abbott Nutrition's wastewater needs as well as improving the system to better service the north part of Sturgis.

The City is also extremely excited about the proposed redevelopment of both former Kirsch facilities. 308 N. Prospect will be transformed by Bosgraaf Commercial into the Kirsch Lofts, a mixed-use redevelopment with condominiums and office space. The plan includes investment of \$6.5 million dollars and will breathe new life into a building with an incredible history. Bosgraaf is also planning to redevelop 210 Broadus Street, investing an estimated \$20 million for industrial condominiums and making the necessary improvements to competitively market the facility. The City of Sturgis provided a host of incentives to assist these projects including a plant rehabilitation district, obsolete property rehabilitation district, neighborhood enterprise zone and brownfield redevelopment plans.

This last year has been nothing short of remarkable in terms of seeing "plans on the shelf" come to fruition. We at the City are proud of our ability to make these projects happen and provide a solid foundation for the future of Sturgis.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Hughes,  
City Manager

## City Purchases Electric Car

This November the City began use of an electric car to read utility meters within the City limits. The City Commission approved purchase of the vehicle, a Global Electric Motorcars (GEM) e2, to replace a small sedan from the motor vehicle fleet currently used by electric department meter readers.




The e2 runs off of six 12-volt batteries and has a range of 35 miles per charge. Producing zero tailpipe emissions, the vehicle claims the energy equivalent of 150 miles to the gallon. GEM is a Chrysler company.

This purchase is part of the City's continuing efforts to improve overall fleet fuel economy. With the current energy climate, finding ways to both more environmentally and fiscally responsible is increasingly important.

The purchase of the GEM e2 helps do both. In addition to being environmentally friendly, the vehicle is also cost effective. By purchasing the e2 the City saved over \$1,000 on the purchase of the car over a traditional fleet vehicle, and staff estimates a lower maintenance cost over its useful life.

**ST. JOSEPH COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

**CIRCLE LINE**



- PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION TO POPULAR LOCATIONS IN STURGIS.
- \$1.00 PER DESTINATION.
- ROUTES RUN HOURLY.

For more information call:  
**(269) 273-7808 or 1-800-964-5700**

## FREE Sturgis Kiwanis Parenting Fair

Saturday, 1-31-09 | Sturgis Middle School | 8:45 am - 3:00 pm

A day designed to explore parenting concerns with presentations, mini-sessions and exhibits. For more information and to register visit: [www.sturgisps.org](http://www.sturgisps.org) (link at bottom of page)

## Winter Events Downtown

Downtown Sturgis is ready for the snow and cold with a number of events this winter season. For more information, contact the Downtown Development Authority at (269) 651-1907

- DSA's "Out of the Sack and into the Shops" Sale** - Saturday, December 13 from 7 - 10 a.m. visit participating stores for exciting specials. The DSA will be giving away \$500 in DSA Gift Certificates. Customers must be dressed in PJs and get their cards punched at participating businesses to be eligible for the drawing and in-store specials.
- Winter Blues** - Friday, January 16 from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. the DSA is sponsoring their 4th annual Winter Blues. An evening of live music and free food, participating businesses will host musicians providing entertainment to individuals looking to head downtown for shopping, a meal, or just a night out of the house.
- Student Art BOUNCE** - Friday, January 16 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. the Open Door Art Gallery is hosting a Student Art BOUNCE. Young artists from the Sturgis area will be presenting their work, so while your out and about for Winter Blues, stop on over.



## Local Business Spotlight



The Downtown Development Authority, Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Sturgis are partnering to help promote local businesses. 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 Andrew Kuk at [akuk@ci.sturgis.mi.us](mailto:akuk@ci.sturgis.mi.us) he can also be contacted at (269) 659-7234..



The Headlines Hair Designs and Spa Team  
(not pictured, Dawn Thangvijit)

### Headlines Hair Designs & The Spa – 204 E. Chicago Road

If you're looking for a relaxing day at the spa, there's no need to search outside of town. Simply visit Headlines Hair Designs & The Spa in downtown Sturgis. Owned by Dawn Foster, Headlines began in 1996 in the Old Journal Building. In January 2007 the business expanded and moved to its current location at 204 E. Chicago Road. Headlines employs eight stylists with more than 80 years experience combined. The business also employs an apprentice, two massage therapists and an esthetician. Headlines offers a wide range of services from a full line of hair services to massage, facials, manicures, pedicures, body waxing, detoxifying foot baths, slimming herbal body wraps, ear candling, teeth whitening and more. Check out their web page at [headlineshairdesignthespa@hotmail.com](http://headlineshairdesignthespa@hotmail.com) or call for an appointment at 659-8559.

## Sturgis Fire Department Offers No-Penalty, No-Fee Fire Inspections

During the winter months and holiday season, plenty of fire hazards appear. Whether its fireplaces, candles, dry Christmas trees, or any one of several other year-around hazards, it is important to be aware of potential problems within your home. In order to help residents address these problems, earlier this year the City of Sturgis Fire Department began a new program: no-penalty, no-fee, home fire safety inspections.

When you live in a home every day of your life you have a tendency to overlook things that could cause a fire, or cost you valuable seconds getting out of your home if a fire should begin. As part of the inspection program, upon request Sturgis fire fighters will come to your home and make suggestions on reducing clutter, exit strategies during a fire, smoke detector placement and general fire safety recommendations. To

### Statistics on Home Fires

- Cooking fires are the number one cause (40%) of home fires and home fire injuries. Home heating fires are the second leading cause of residential fires.
- In 2005, candles caused more than 15,600 home fires. They caused 150 civilian deaths, 1,270 civilian injuries and more than \$539 million in damage.
- The top 5 days for home candle fires are Christmas eve, Christmas day, New Year's eve, New Year's day and Halloween.
- WORKING smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire by half; an estimated 890 could be saved each year if all homes had a working smoke detector.

qualify for the program, there are only two requirements: you must live in the city and sign a liability waiver.

Each year thousands of people needlessly die in home fires; in 2007 alone an estimated 399,000 home structure fires resulting in 2,865 civilian deaths and 13,600 injuries occurred. A significant portion of these deaths could have been eliminated by following some common sense prevention measures. To request an inspection please call the fire station at 659-7257.

## Get an Early Start on Your New Year's Resolution

Check out the winter programs upcoming at the Doyle Community Center. For more information, please call (269) 659-8110 or stop by the Doyle Community Center today!

### UPCOMING ADULT WINTER PROGRAMS

#### Tae Kwon Do

Monday & Thursday nights  
7:15pm - 8:45pm  
New session begins on December 8th!

#### Floor Hockey League

Entry Deadline: December 22  
Cost: only \$250 per team  
All games played on Friday nights!

#### Church Baseball League

Entry Deadline: December 29  
Cost: only \$150 per team  
All games played on Thursday nights!

#### Men's and Women's Indoor Soccer Leagues

Entry Deadline: January 9th  
Cost: only \$300 per team  
All games played on Sundays!

### UPCOMING YOUTH WINTER PROGRAMS

#### Double Dribblers and Hot Shots Basketball

Ages: 5-10 years old  
Wednesdays evenings beginning January 7

#### Boys Basketball League

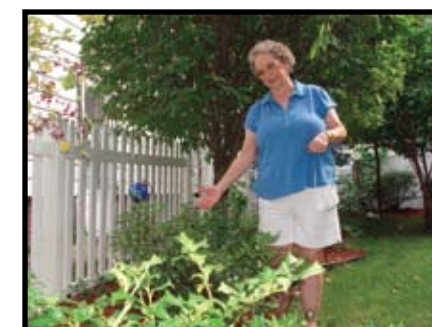
5th-8th Grade  
Entry Deadline: January 23  
Cost: only \$250 per team

#### Youth Tennis

Ages: 5 years - High School  
Various classes depending on age and skill level  
Next sessions begin the week of January 5th



Lou & Stacey Geroux Family  
1st Precinct



Jan Beery  
2nd Precinct



Florin and Ana Olarean  
3rd Precinct



John and Heather Mikulenias  
4th Precinct

## Exchange Club of Sturgis' 2008 "Keep Sturgis Beautiful" Awards

This fall, the Exchange Club of Sturgis announced its 2008 "Keep Sturgis Beautiful" award winners, homeowners who display pride in ownership through outstanding property maintenance and upkeep. Based on public nominations, awards are presented annually to one residence from each of the four precincts and to one non-residential property. Sturges-Young Auditorium was honored as this year's non-residential property winner.