

## Utility Rates to Increase

As you may have noticed, effective with bills mailed on or after June 1, 2008 municipal water and wastewater rates have increased. For water services the rate per thousand gallons remains the same; \$2.02 per thousand inside the City and \$4.04 outside the City. The customer charge for water, based on the size of your meter, has increased. The rates for sewer service have increased from \$3.17 per thousand gallons to \$3.47 per thousand gallons.

In 2006 the City had a study prepared to project the amount of revenue that would be required to maintain our current water and wastewater systems and to provide for future expenses to maintain and upgrade the service infrastructure. As a result of this study, the City set out a plan to adjust rates over the course of a few years; 2008 is the third year of rate adjustments.

If you would like more information on the rate increase or further explanation on how this will impact your utility bill, please contact Customer Service at 659-7231 or 659-7232.

## Spring Projects? Call MISS DIG First

With Summer in full swing, 'tis the season for outdoor projects. Please remember to call MISS DIG at 800-482-7171 before beginning your project. MISS DIG contacts area utilities to mark underground lines to prevent damage and other accidents. Remember: Safety First!



## Multiple Electric Meters May Cost You

As homes in the Sturgis area rotate between rental units and single family homes, owners may have installed multiple electric meters to allow individual rental units in one property to be billed separately. If you own a single family home with multiple electric meters, this may be costing you upwards of \$90.00 a year.

The way the City's electric rates are structured, each residential service (tied to a meter) is currently charged a flat rate of \$7.50 plus a cost per kilowatt hour used. If you own a home with two meters, you are being charged this flat rate twice; once for each meter in service. If this pertains to your home, you may want to consider having service combined under a single meter. In addition to the cost savings, eliminating an extra electric meter also removes the hassle of paying two bills. This process would require you to hire an electrician at your cost to re-wire the property. If you have any questions about the impact of multiple meters on your electric bill, please contact Customer Service at 659-7231 or 659-7232.

## Power Tips: Manage your Air Conditioning

With summer here and the weather starting to heat up, Customer Service would like to provide a few friendly tips and reminders on air conditioning to keep your electric bills manageable.

Air conditioners can cause a big drain on energy that will result in high electric bills. Use air conditioning sparingly; run it on hot days when needed most. When you do use air conditioning, do your best to limit the number of rooms you cool and keep the system from overworking. The less your air conditioner has to work, the less energy it will use, and the lower your bill will be.

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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 By The

*City of Sturgis*  
For Its Citizens

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

## The Sturgis Wire

City of Sturgis  
130 N. Nottawa  
Sturgis, MI 49091

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## 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  
Caralee Mayer  
Precinct 1



Vice-Mayor  
Karl Littman  
Precinct 4



Commissioner  
John Carmichael  
Precinct 1



Commissioner  
Barbara Fisher  
Precinct 3



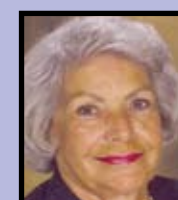
Commissioner  
Suzanne Walters  
Precinct 4



Commissioner  
Michael Gay  
At-Large



Commissioner  
Kenneth Malone  
Precinct 3



Commissioner  
Ina Taulbee  
Precinct 2



Commissioner  
Karen Stephens  
Precinct 2

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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

JUNE 2008

www.ci.sturgis.mi.us

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2

## Positive Developments: Sturgis Shows Strong Progress in Economic Improvement

In the middle of tough economic times, often it is hard to see progress being made. Despite uncertainty in the State of Michigan and nationwide, in Sturgis the past year has provided plenty of development to be excited about. The City of Sturgis, working with its Boards and Commissions and other local economic development agencies has undertaken a number of projects that are helping to improve the community.

Vacant buildings can be troublesome for a community, particularly because they are unused economic space and can many times also be eyesores. In the past year, the City has been able to facilitate the redevelopment or elimination of several such sites. Many previously vacant properties have been taken over by new businesses, including the present home of Michigan Tool Works on North Centerville Road; the old Levolor property, now occupied by Industrial Pipe and Maintenance; and the Fantail Brewpub, a restaurant and microbrewery located in the old Elks building downtown.

The City has also been able during the past year to assist in the redevelopment of some brownfields in the community. Brownfields are properties whose past uses have created environmental issues that can often complicate redevelopment efforts. One such redevelopment that has made tremendous progress is the Newport property project. Here a former brownfield is being used for a residential redevelopment which will provide affordable housing. A relatively rare type of brownfield redevelopment, the City and its partners were asked to give a presentation on the project at the Brownfields 2008 national conference in Detroit this past May. More recently, the City and its Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA) have been assisting another redevelopment project taking place downtown at 400 West Chicago Road; already the existing vacant structure, an old drycleaners, has been demolished and underground storage tanks at the property have been removed.

Beyond the removal or reuse of vacant and brownfield properties, the City has also seen progress in new business growth and expansion in the past 12 months. In addition to some of the projects already mentioned, several industrial park lots have been sold and three businesses, LTI, VCI and Midwest Tool, have expanded their operations.

In the coming year, more exciting projects which are already in the works are expected to be completed. This includes several new or relocating businesses currently working with the City's Business Development Team, the opening of the new Sturgis Renal Clinic in Bullard Business Park, and expected expansions by several industrial businesses.

The City has also been working on some more long-range economic development efforts to facilitate future growth. July 10th the City unveils its Economic Development Strategic plan; you can read more about this in the Message from the City Manager. Also, this summer construction begins on the infrastructure for the Fawn River Crossing development area, a collaborative effort for development between the City and other local partners in Michigan and Indiana; this area is expected to see major growth in the coming years.



Demolition in progress at old granary on W. Congress

Through development efforts both in the short and long term, Sturgis is taking positive, proactive steps to stimulate its economy. Despite difficult times, the City and its various economic development partners have been able to successfully encourage, assist, and promote growth in the community.



The Fantail Brewpub opened this year in the newly-refurbished Elks Building

## A Message from the City Manager

### Economic Development Plan Sets New Course

Over a year and a half in the making, we are at the completion of the Economic Development Strategic Plan. The plan will serve as a blueprint for guiding Sturgis economic development. It goes without saying that we are living in a leaner and intensely more competitive economy. The plan answers the question that we all have – how do we position Sturgis' economy for the future, particularly in context of a struggling state and national economy and the dynamics of an ever changing global market?

The process included considerable input from the community through business and community surveys, focus groups, one on one interviews, market analysis and a public forum. On July 10th, the plan will be presented to the public. The plan contains no silver bullet, simply well thought out strategies that look toward the future and like anything worth doing will require hard work, focus and commitment from the community. Now is the time for the community to come together for the benefit of achieving the goals and objectives of the plan.

I would like to recognize the leadership of the City Commission and the Sturgis Economic Development Corporation for taking on the task of creating a plan specifically for improving the economy. While necessary, this is a bold and aggressive action, with the obvious risk of criticism that so often accompanies the development of a plan. But failing to act for fear of failure is not in the genetic makeup of Sturgis...much like the construction of the hydro dam in 1911, taking risks and investing in the community is our way.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Hughes



# 2007 Wastewater Construction Update

The 2007 SRF Project, the Wastewater department's major construction project this year, is nearly complete. Partially funded by State money, this year's construction involved replacement of the outflow pipe running from the Treatment Plant to the Fawn River, installation of new processing equipment at the plant, and the replacement of the cover of one of the digester tanks. As of June 1st, the majority of this work is complete.



Workers help lower new digester cover into place

This summer, construction will include installation of sanitary sewer pipe from the Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Michigan-Indiana border, allowing the City to service the new Fawn River Crossing development area, a joint venture of the City, Sturgis Township, LaGrange County, Indiana, and other local government partners. Other construction projects include placement of a new sewer interceptor on the west side of the City from Fawn River Road north to Lafayette Street, replacement of a force main, and installation of new sewer in the Fawn River Road area.

**Connect with your Community**

The **Sturgis eWire**

Weekly update of City of Sturgis events, topics of interest, City services, and emergency notifications e-mailed directly to you:

**REGISTER NOW!**

**www.ci.sturgis.mi.us**

# Look What's Happening at the Auditorium

After a cold and snowy winter summer is finally here! With the spring season has come a busy time with weddings, graduations, parties and meetings. Don't forget if you would like to have a place for a meeting, dinner, or wedding, the Auditorium is an excellent venue. Auditorium staff members are ready and able to work with you to plan a fabulous event or provide catering services; they even cater events outside the Auditorium.

If you are looking for a place to eat Brunch on Sundays, the Auditorium is open from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for your dining pleasure this summer and all year around. Breakfast starts at 9:30 a.m. for \$8.50 per person, with lunch starting at 11:30 a.m. for \$10.50 per person. For the person who would like something of everything, both breakfast and lunch fare is available for \$13.00 per person. The Auditorium also has pricing for children so you can spend an enjoyable Sunday with the entire family.

Looking forward, Auditorium staff is working along with the Council of the Arts to set the schedule for next season. Both groups are working hard to prepare an entertaining 2008-2009 season with something for everyone.

Already the next Travel and Adventure Series has been planned, promising to be interesting and exciting. During the cold winter months, you can relive the summer season by traveling via video to hot spots like the Gulf Cost (Oct. 14), St. Vincent and the Grenadines (Jan. 20), and Hawaii (Feb. 16); just a few of the great trips in store. Don't forget before each show there is also a Pre-Show Dinner for your enjoyment.

Watch for details in future editions of the Sturgis Wire or contact the Auditorium at 651-8541 for more information on events, entertainers, dates, ticket sale information, and information on becoming a Patron of the Arts.

# In Brief Government Summaries: Keeping Citizens Up to Date

Citizens of the City of Sturgis hold a unique position when it relates to local government. They are at once customers of City services like street repair, parks, and utilities and "stockholders" of the government by virtue of their votes. To better serve both roles requires information about the workings of City to understand how government operates and what projects it is undertaking.

To provide citizens with this information, the City of Sturgis has begun to produce short topic summaries on governmental policies, programs, and procedures. Entitled *In Brief*, these summaries are one-page looks at different topics involving the City that provide description, history, and rationale in an in-depth and easy to read form.

*In Briefs* will be available on policies and programs as they develop. Citizens can obtain copies of any *In Brief* online at <http://www.egovlink.com/sturgis/docs/menu/home.asp> under *IN BRIEFS* or at City Hall.

# Sturgis District Library Summer Events

Come check out the Sturgis District Library this summer; the Library will be featuring a number of fun events for all ages. The Summer Reading Program, for kids ages toddler to teen, starts June 12th with the theme "Catch the Reading Bug". Read, fill out book logs, attend special programs and movies, and earn prizes as part of this fun program! Come into the library to register and get your calendars and book logs. At the end of the program, kids in 6th grade and older can celebrate at the Teen Video Game Party on Tuesday, July 29th. Friday August 1st participants of all ages can celebrate the end of the Reading Program with Jim Merrill, juggler. Summer Reading Program prizes will be drawn at both events.

Another fun event, Story Times and Crafts, will run every Tuesday and Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in July for children ages 2 and older. The Library will also host a Beginning Baby-sitting Clinic Monday – Friday June 16th-20th. The clinic on the basics of baby-sitting runs from 10:00 a.m. to noon each day and students must attend all five sessions. Register by calling 659-7224; space is limited to 20 students.

The Sturgis Writers' Group is in full swing; get started this summer by coming to share your writing and get feedback from your peers. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month. Individuals interested in the Library are also asked to join the Friends of the Library; the group will host a Garden Tour on Saturday June 12th. The Tour starts at the Library from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and runs from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For groups needing a place to meet, the Library now has a space available to reserve. To read the usage agreement, please visit the District Library or see their website.

For more information on any of these programs and for a full schedule of summer events, contact the Sturgis District Library at (269) 659-7224 or visit them online at [www.sturgis-library.org](http://www.sturgis-library.org).

## District Library Summer Calendar of Events

- June**

  - Tuesday, June 10 at 1:00 – WRITERS' GROUP MEETING
  - Thursday, June 12 – REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER PROGRAM STARTS
  - Friday, June 13 at 1:00 – PUPPET SHOW
  - Monday – Friday, June 16 – 20, BEGINNING BABY-SITTING CLINIC
  - Friday, June 27 at 1:00 – FAMILY MOVIE, "A Bug's Life"
  - Friday, June 27 at 1:00 – FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEETING
- July**

  - Tuesdays and Wednesdays in July – STORY TIMES AND CRAFTS
  - Tuesday, July 8 at 1:00 – WRITERS' GROUP MEETING
  - Friday, July 11 at 1:00 – FAMILY MOVIE, "Bee Movie"
  - Saturday, July 12 – Friends of the Library STURGIS GARDEN TOUR
  - Friday, July 25 at 1:00 – FAMILY MOVIE, "Antz"
  - Tuesday, July 29 at 7:00 – TEEN VIDEO GAME PARTY
- August**

  - Friday, August 1 at 10:00 – Jim Merrill, JUGGLER



# 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 John Hayes at [jhayes@ci.sturgis.mi.us](mailto:jhayes@ci.sturgis.mi.us). John can also be contacted at 659-7233.

## Boundary Waters Café and Market – 220 W. Chicago Road

The second store for owner John Farrand, Boundary Waters Café and Market in downtown Sturgis is a full-service café featuring breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The first Boundary Waters location opened in Vicksburg 5 years ago, drawing inspiration from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in Northern Minnesota to create a café and catering service with an all-natural focus. Boundary Waters Café and Market stresses as much as possible buying from local, Michigan suppliers and using fresh, natural ingredients. During the year, special menu items rotate based on what local produce is in season at the time. In keeping with their natural focus, the business also strives to be as "green" as possible, using bio-degradable plastics in their cups and recycling.

From a culinary perspective, the Café offers an excellent, varied menu; for breakfast traditional favorites such as pancakes and breakfast sandwiches are available, while lunch features soups, sandwiches, wraps, salads, and more. Favorite items are abundant, with the chicken salad and Voyager Grill two of the store's many heavily-ordered selections. Dinner offers more formal fare, including pork loin with Michigan Cherry port glaze. Boundary Waters also features specialty coffees and a Sunday brunch, as well as a catering service that handles all types of events with menus to suit all types of tastes. For more information on Boundary Waters Café and Market, you can visit their website at [www.boundarywaterscafe.com](http://www.boundarywaterscafe.com).



Boundary Waters Café and Market owner John Farrand, in his store at 220 W. Chicago Road; the Café features an inviting atmosphere with an "up north" feel

# Meet the Candidates Forums Scheduled

As a service to St. Joseph County voters, the Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce and Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce are co-sponsoring a series of Meet the Candidates Forums during the coming months. The forums are non-partisan, with all candidates invited to attend. Similar to televised debates, the forum will feature a moderator asking the candidates questions from area reporters and audience members. Take this opportunity to listen to the candidates and inform your vote! All forums are scheduled to be held in the Nora Hagen Theater at Glen Oaks Community College from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Sheriffs Candidates Forum: Tuesday, July 22  
State Representative Candidates Forum: Tuesday, July 29

# Summer Events in the Downtown Development Authority

As summer begins here in Sturgis, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is beginning its schedule of events for the season. The Sturgis Farmers Market, selling fresh produce, flowers, and other goods, takes place every Saturday morning from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the City parking lot located on the southeast corner of N. Nottawa and E. West Street.

Fun Fridays, the DDA's weekly entertainment events at Free Church Park, start June 20th and run every Friday during the summer. Festivities, including free live music, start at 5:00 p.m. and run until 8:00 p.m.



## Other summer DDA events

Art Bounce: July 18th  
Downtown Sidewalk Sale: July 25th and 26th

For more information on DDA events, contact Director Kim Musolf at 651-1907.

**PMcare**

PMcare is an after hours clinic intended for non-emergency care when physician offices are closed. Patients need not be a patient of The Doctors' Office, nor become one to be seen at PMcare.

**269 651-3554**

- Hours: 5-9 pm Mon-Fri, and 11-3 pm Sat
- Appts.: Walk-in basis only — no appointment necessary
- Location: PMcare is within The Doctors' Office at 104 S. Lakeview Ave.
- Directions: The Doctors' Office is located one block south of U.S. 12 on the east side of Lakeview Ave
- Phone: 269 651-3554 no appointment necessary
- Providers: Physicians, Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners
- Insurances: Accepting most insurances except Caresource
- Cost: Services are charged at typical office visit rates with a 20% discount for self-pay patients paying total bill at time of service. Normal office visit co-payments apply.

# Car Show at the Doyle!

Saturday, August 16th the Doyle Community Center will host a Classic & Custom Car Show from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The show will feature a variety of activities for the entire family, including music, raffles, games, food and refreshments, and more. Individuals wishing to enter their car (or bike) must pre-register with the Doyle Community Center or on the day of the event. Registration on August 16th starts at 8:00 a.m. It is \$5.00 per vehicle to register a car or bike, spectators get in for free. The Doyle Center is located at 310 N. Franks Ave. in Sturgis, MI. For more information, please call (269) 659-8110.

# Summertime Recreation Programs:

**Summer Tennis Camp:** Ages 5yrs. - High School  
Monday - Thursday (Times vary depending on age)  
Session 1: June 16 - July 18  
Session 2: July 21 - August 15  
Register TODAY at the Doyle Community Center!

**Summer Adventure Club:** Ages 6-12 yrs.  
Monday - Friday 9am-Noon or 1pm-4pm  
Thuston Woods Park  
June 16 - August 8  
Register in advance at the Doyle Community Center!