

Youth Services Patrol Car Gets New Look

The Sturgis Youth Services Officer, (aka our DARE Officer) is sporting a styling update on his DARE Unit. Bison Graphics donated new graphics to reflect the relationship between the Police, DARE and the Schools, while Boland Tire, Bowersox Flooring, Sturgis Party Store and Infiniti Ink each purchased a rim to complete the look.



Youth Services Officer Banaszak with his newly-redone patrol vehicle.

DOYLE
COMMUNITY CENTER
310 N. Franks | (269) 659-8110
New Fall & Winter Program booklet now available!
Pick one up at the Doyle today for a listing of all of our new Programs and Leagues.

SAVE THE DATE
Sturgis Hospital's
Tailgate Fundraiser
Sat. Nov 22

Volunteers Needed

Volunteer Boards and Commissions are a vital part of the operation of the City of Sturgis. These groups can have a variety of purposes, from advising the City Commission to directly affecting policy in their area of authority.

Service to a Board or Committee does require a significant commitment of time and energy on the part of the volunteer. However, those that do choose to serve not only get a first-hand look at the operation of City Government and the ability to affect change, but also have an avenue to give back to the Community by providing a new perspective and different set of skills.

There has been a slowdown in new applications, possibly because of the very busy schedules of residents. However, as expressed by City Manager Michael Hughes, "the City of Sturgis cannot function at the level that it does without contribution from its volunteers." Currently, there are vacancies on one of the City's most critical boards, the Zoning Board of Appeals. This board has the power to hear and decide upon request the interpretation of the provisions of the zoning ordinance. Although this board is prepared to meet twice each month, they will only convene when an appeal is filed, which has average less than six times per year.

If you are interested in serving on a Board or Commission or need more information, you can contact the City Clerk's Office at 269-651-2321. You can also find an application at City Hall or online at www.ci.sturgis.mi.us.

INSIDE THIS EDITION OF
The Sturgis Wire
Sturges-Young Seat Renovation / Events1
SRF Construction Project..... 2
DPS / Burning2
Local Business Spotlight3
Experience Sturgis3
Things to do Downtown / City Hall hours3

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

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



Upcoming Events and Performances at the Auditorium

- To make the full use of the newly renovated facility, the Fall schedule has a wide variety of entertaining shows and performances with something for everyone.
- Tuesday, October 14:** The Travel & Adventure Series kicks off with a trip to the Gulf Coast. This year's series travels (via video) throughout the United States with a side trip to the Caribbean. All of the shows begin at 7:30 p.m. with a Pre-Show Dinner available at 6:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, October 25:** The Sturgis Council of the Arts presents Pieces of Dreams, a Kalamazoo based ensemble featuring both original compositions and jazz standards. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults, \$5 for students.
 - Saturday, November 1:** Elvis and Friends come to the Auditorium for a fun night of music and entertainment. Tickets are available at the Auditorium for \$25.00, \$20.00 & \$15.00.
 - Saturday, November 8:** The Sturgis Council of the Arts presents The Guess Who, the classic rock band with a string of #1 hits that includes "These Eyes", "Laughing", "No Time", "American Woman", and "No Sugar Tonight". Reunited in 1999, the current lineup includes two of the original members, Jim Kale and Garry Peterson. Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$20 for students.

For reservations to pre-show dinners and more ticket information, contact the Sturges-Young Auditorium at (269) 651-8541. More information and ticket availability for Council of the Arts performances can be found online at www.sturgisarts.com or by contacting (269) 659-7211.



campaign and corresponding refurbishment is the most recent, and one of the largest, of these efforts to date.

The fundraising campaign raised over \$123,000 to defray the cost of the work, and the campaign is still ongoing; seats are still available for "purchase" - for a sponsorship of \$300 for one or \$500 for three, individuals or groups receive a name plaque that will be placed on the newly refurbished seats. Donations of any size are accepted, however, and will be recognized with a donor plaque at the facility. Fundraising efforts will continue in order to meet the future repair and replacement needs of the facility.

Work at the Auditorium will be completed in September in time for the new season of performances presented by the Sturgis Council of the Arts and the other exciting fall events scheduled for the facility. For more information on all the happenings at the Auditorium in the coming months, see the article below or contact Sturges-Young Civic Center and Auditorium at (269) 659-7211.

Sturges-Young Auditorium has newly-refurbished seats for its performances this year thanks to the successful "Best Seat in the House Campaign". The fundraiser, which included the sale of seat plaques and a golf tournament, helped pay for the refurbishment of the facility's 992 seats, including re-upholstery and re-padding of the fabric portions of the seat, repainting and staining of the metal and wood portions of chair, and any needed replacement and repair of hardware. Seat fabric and backing are now a dark blue, with the wood handles stained darker for an updated look. In addition to seat restoration, the auditorium floor and ceiling also received a new coat of paint while the seats were removed.

A gift to the community from residents Clara Sturges, Stella Sturges-Taylor, and Emma Young, the Sturges-Young Civic Center and Auditorium opened in 1955 and has been home to numerous amateur and professional performances from both local and nationally-known artists.

Over the course of its lifetime, the Auditorium has received facility updates and renovations as needs arose and funding allowed. The "Best Seat in the House"



Removal of seats at the Sturges-Young Auditorium underway; the facility's 992 seats were refurbished last month.

The Sturgis Wire
City of Sturgis
130 N. Nottawa
Sturgis, MI 49091

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SRF 2008 Project Begins Construction

The City of Sturgis' 2008 State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) project has begun.

The 2008 SRF Project will see the installation of gravity sewer pipe from Fawn River north to the intersection of N. Centerville and W. Lafayette (near Abbott Nutrition). A new pump lift station will be created on Fawn River to replace four existing stations on Stockdale Road, Ohio Court, at the Gateway Apartment Complex, and on Cato Lane.

Additional gravity sewer will be installed on parts of Prairie Street, South Street, White Street, South Nottawa (near Fawn River Road), and Stockdale Road while force main will be installed from the new pump lift station to the waste water treatment plant and on parts of Surprise and W. Congress Streets. See the map on the left for locations that will be under construction.

Work in September will be primarily occurring on Fawn River Road; installation of this pipe will affect traffic in the area. Additional work not affecting traffic will include installation of the force main to the waste water treatment plant and installation of gravity sewer from the west side of the M-66 and Fawn River Road intersection north to US-12. Construction of the rest of the project is expected to begin in late March of 2009.

The City of Sturgis is offering several avenues for information updates on the project. An interactive map showing construction locations will be available online at www.ci.sturgis.mi.us throughout the project, along with general information on SRF 2008. A special weekly e-mail update on the project will also be available for residents and businesses to sign up for; see the website for details. Information on major changes in the project (road closings, detours, etc.) will also be posted in the Sturgis eWire and released to the local media (newspaper and radio). For more information on SRF 2008, contact the City of Sturgis at (269) 651-2321.



Burning Questions?

A small backyard fire can be a excellent way to spend a fall evening, but City residents may have questions on the regulations of their fire. The City does allow a campfire or recreational fire to take place without permit. Recreational fires are characterized as "an outdoor fire utilized to cook food for human consumption" and are different than a bonfire which is used "for ceremonial purposes"; you can contact the Sturgis Fire Department for guidelines on bonfires.

When burning, the Fire Department asks that first and foremost you be sensible about your fire. Keep it small, always attended, and contained by a ring or other appropriate container; make sure placement is away from homes, garages, or wooden fences and that you have a hose or bucket of water ready to extinguish it if necessary. Please also keep younger children away from an open fire and supervised at all times when they are near.

Often, fires can cause disputes among neighbors, so please be considerate of those with hanging clothes, open windows, or known medical conditions affected by smoke. Note that the City does allow the burning of household trash items Monday through Saturday, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; this includes ordinary paper and cardboard but NOT any type of plastic, diapers, food, or animal waste. Additionally, there is absolutely no burning of brush, grass, or leaves allowed in the City. For more information on fire dos and don'ts, please consult the web page of the Sturgis Fire Department or give them a call at (269) 659-7257.

DPS Fall Programs

Leaf Pickup: With the fall season here again, the Department of Public Services (DPS) will soon be starting its 19th year of leaf pick up and the community composting program. DPS crews will begin picking up leaves on Monday October 20th, starting north of Chicago Rd. and west of N. Nottawa working their way across the north side of town and then the south side. Pick up will resume each day where crews left off the day before. The DPS will continue pick up until the end of November, as weather permits. Residents are asked to please rake leaves onto the curbed pavement by 8:00 a.m. Monday during the pick up period.

Under our composting system, we prefer that you do not put leaves in bags. If you choose to bag your leaves, please call the DPS office at 651-2879 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (Mon. - Fri.) to arrange pick up. Bagged leaves may also be taken to the compost site during open hours, however you must dump the leaves once there; bags are not accepted at the site. If you have any questions or comments on the leaf pickup please call the DPS office at 651-2879.

You can also use the compost site for disposal of your leaves, grass clippings and brush. Beginning October 1st the compost site will move to its fall hours: Monday and Thursday from noon to 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The last day the compost site will be open is Monday, Nov. 19th unless the ground is covered with snow before then.



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. John can also be contacted at 659-7233.

McGrady Jewelers – 166 W. Chicago Road

When you first enter McGrady Jewelers in downtown Sturgis you might be surprised by the stores upscale New York look. But stay longer and you'll find the store is in fact laid back. For owners Robert and Kari McGrady, that's their number one goal: to make customers feel comfortable. And the store has something for everyone with prices ranging from \$50 to \$50,000. When McGrady Jewelers opened in November 2006, it wasn't long before owners realized they would need more room. About a year ago they moved from their former location of 800 square feet to a new one just down the street, this time with 3,000 square feet. Aside from the jewelry for sale, McGrady Jewelers also offers custom design using wax carving and casting. This way, a customer can come in with an idea and the jewelry piece can be made. The store also features repairs which can be made to just about anything from rings to eyeglasses, according to owner Robert McGrady. Jewelry isn't all you'll find at McGrady Jewelers. You'll also find work by local artists including wood creations by Pat Arseneau and copper art by Barry Star. With all this the store is a must-see in downtown Sturgis.



Owner Robert McGrady, center, with the stores two employees K.C. Chormyak and Martha Rehm.



Cutting Corner owner Carol Messner with stylists Barbara Cruce, Cindy Siegrist and Anne Hussey.

The Cutting Corner – 101 E. Chicago Road

There's no mystery behind the name of at least one longtime Sturgis salon. The Cutting Corner gets its name from being located on the corner of Chicago and Nottawa roads right in the heart of downtown Sturgis. The salon is owned by Carol Messner. A licensed hairdresser since 1986, she opened the Cutting Corner in 1995. Herself included, the salon employs five stylists including an apprentice. The Cutting Corner offers cuts and more for women, men and children. With a range of stylists, all keeping up on the latest trends, cuts at the salon can be anywhere from conservative to edgy. That way, people won't have to go out of town for a haircut, says owner Carol Messner. The salon also offers manicures, pedicures, waxing, multidimensional coloring, color correction, facial analysis, formal styling and tanning as well as a full line of salon products. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays or earlier or later by appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome. For more information, check out the salon's websites at www.thecuttingcorneronline.com and at www.myspace.com/thecuttingcorner.

Things to do Downtown

While the weather is taking on a chill, downtown Sturgis remains full of exciting and fun events for people of all ages.

The Open Door Art Gallery and Downtown Sturgis plays host to another Art BOUNCE on Friday, October 17th. Underwritten this time by Sturgis Health and Wellness, Art BOUNCE features different artists at several downtown businesses and offers you the chance to view art, browse the shops, meet the artists, and enjoy some refreshments. Best of all, the event is free of charge!

Friday October 24th, the Open Door Art Gallery will host Beer, Brats, and Bluegrass; a fundraiser for the Gallery, it will feature live music, food and beverage. The event will run from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Finally, for the kids, downtown will host trick-or-treating on Friday, October 31st. Festivities include trick-or-treating at downtown businesses and a costume contest hosted by the DSA. Sign-up is at Free Church Park and the festivities run from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For more information on any of these events, contact the Sturgis Downtown Development Authority at (269) 651-1907.

New Opening Time for City Hall

Before heading down to City Hall, be sure to check your clock; starting September 1st City Hall is opening its doors at 9:00 a.m., a half hour later than in the past. Additionally, the City Hall operator and City staff will also begin answering telephones at 9:00 a.m., with the exception of Wednesdays, when lines will open at 8:30 a.m.

The change in opening time will allow City staff more time to complete training and administrative tasks. The 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. time period typically sees minimal foot traffic or phone calls, allowing for the change in schedule. If you have any questions, please contact City Hall at (269) 651-2321.

Enjoy the Present, Celebrate the Past: Experience Sturgis Festival 2008

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 4th 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; it's Experience Sturgis 2008. In its second year celebrating the past and present of the community, the Experience Sturgis Festival, taking place in Downtown Sturgis, is poised to offer another fun-filled day for Sturgis residents and visitors alike.

Experience Sturgis aims to offer its guests an "experience" of the city's rich history and vibrant present through a series of events and activities spread throughout downtown. As with last year, the Festival will help feature seven downtown buildings/businesses and showcase their unique history with articles in the Sturgis Journal and a walking tour during the Festival.

Other events scheduled for the Festival include free showings at the Strand Theater of "Sturgis, Michigan: A Place We've Always Called Home", agricultural and eco-friendly information and activities on Pleasant Street, a classic car show and Model T display in Citizen's Plaza, a Kid's Zone across from City Hall, a chalk art contest on North Street for those in Middle School and High School, a biscuit bake off, entertainment all day long at Free Church Park, and much, much, more! Adding to the fun will be individual "experiences" hosted by many downtown businesses tied to their history or that of the Sturgis Community. Come celebrate all Sturgis has to offer at Experience Sturgis 2008!

Featured Businesses: Experience Sturgis 2008

- Sturgis Bank and Trust**
113-125 E. Chicago Rd.
- Dresser Dresser Haas & Caywood PC**
112 S. Monroe
- Mike's Pizza**
112 W. Chicago
- Citizen's Bank**
100 E. Chicago Rd.
- T.C. Appliance**
303 W. Chicago Rd
- Sturgis District Library**
130 N. Nottawa
- Lowry's Books**
118 W Chicago Rd