

Reminders

November 1 is the deadline for returning your Community Survey to the Water Department to receive your \$3.00 credit.
City offices will be closed on Wednesday, November 11 to observe Veteran's Day. Trash pick up normally scheduled for Wednesday will be picked up on Tuesday.
City offices will also be closed on Thursday, November 26 for Thanksgiving. Trash pick up normally scheduled for Thursday will be picked up on Wednesday.
Community churches will be hosting a free Thanksgiving Day meal on November 26 at the Community Center from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and handicap transportation is available by appointment. If you would like to help by making a donation or volunteering to help with the dinner, please contact Reverend Reggie Lewis at 490-8271.

Daylight Savings Time ends on November 1 at 2 a.m.
 Set your clocks back 1 hour.



Announcements and Meetings

Sturgis City Council: Tuesday, November 3, and Tuesday, November 17. Council meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. at the Sturgis Community Center, 1401 Lazelle Street.
Planning and Zoning: November 10, and 24 at 6:30 p.m. downstairs at City Hall.
Forestry: November 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the downstairs conference room at City Hall.
MUB Board: November 18, at 8:00 a.m. in the downstairs conference room at City Hall.
Arts Council: November 12, at 7:00 p.m. in the downstairs conference room at City Hall.
Park Board: November 10, at 7:00 p.m. at Morman Law Firm 850 Main Street.

Officials

Mayor

Maury LaRue 347-4422

Council Members

Ward One:

Mark Chaplin 720-3792
 Joe DesJarlais 347-7928

Ward Two:

Sherry Scudder 720-2768
 David Hersrud 347-5061

Ward Three:

Clint Brengle 720-0171
 Jamie McVay 720-5780

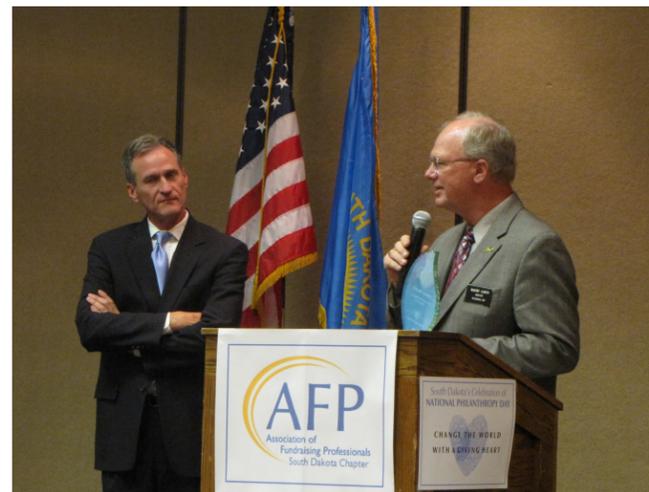
Ward Four:

Dane Sundstrom 490-1172
 Bernadette Usera 720-9424

City Manager

Dave Boone 347-4422

Sturgis Named Outstanding Philanthropic Community for 2009



On October 2, Mayor Maury LaRue accepted an award given to the City of Sturgis by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn in Rapid City. The City of Sturgis was selected as South Dakota's Outstanding Philanthropic Community for 2009. The City receives the distinction because of events, such as the Mayor's Ride, and organizations like the Sturgis Center for the Arts.

The AFP exists to foster the development and growth of fundraising professionals and the profession, to promote high ethical standards in the fundraising profession and to preserve and enhance philanthropy and volunteerism.

Awards were also given for Outstanding Philanthropic Business, Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser, and Outstanding Philanthropists. The awards were presented by Lt. Governor Dennis Daugaard.

2010 Tax Levies Determined - City Reduces Tax Rate

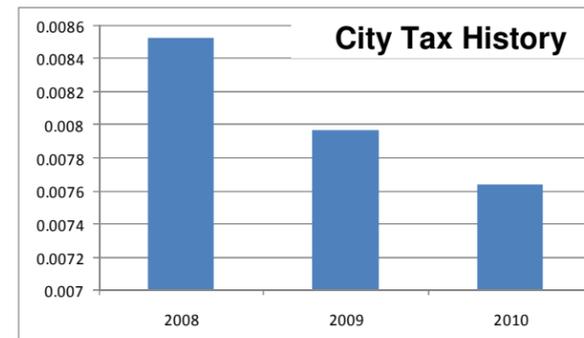
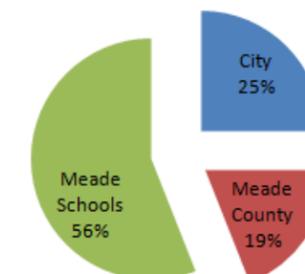
According to the Meade County Auditor's Office, the 2010 tax assessment for city residents will be as follows:

- **City taxes will be levied at .00763 mill**
- **County taxes will be levied at .00581 mill**
- **School taxes will be levied at .0174 mill***

In February, the County Treasurer's Office will notify residents of their assessed valuation and taxing information for 2009 payable in 2010.

The City serves as a Grievance Board for the County when residents want to challenge their property value assessments. Anyone who wants to contest their property assessment will need to contact the Sturgis Finance Office by March 11, 2010 to schedule a date and time for their grievance. The City Council can recommend lower assessed valuations to Meade County but the County Commission makes the final decision at the local level.

Mill Levy Share



Questions concerning the City tax rate may contact the Sturgis Finance Office at 347-4422. For questions regarding County tax rates call the Meade County Auditor's Office at 347-2360. For questions about the Meade School District 46-1 taxes, call 347-2523. Questions about property valuations can be directed to the Meade County Department of Equalization at 347-6811.

City tax history for the last 3 years:

2008 = .00853 mill, 2009 = .00797 mill, 2010 = .00763 mill

*School taxes exclude AG and non AG Z.
 Data as of 10/8/2009 represents uncertified levies.

City Increases Energy Saving Efforts

With the possibility of a 26.6% increase in electric rates in 2010, the City is analyzing the overall energy consumption in City facilities.

Each City department has been challenged to identify possible conservation measures. "The 2010 budget was complete before the rate increase was made public, so the increase came as a surprise," said City Manager Dave Boone. "Since we didn't budget for an increase, we will need to do the best we can to increase our conservation efforts in 2010 and beyond, City employees are very aware of energy costs already, but there are always some additional conservation efforts that can be made."

The City recently combined facility accounts to qualify for a better utility rate under BHP's General Service Large guidelines that will save the City approximately \$6,000 per year over the previous contract.

Planning Commission Vacancies

The City of Sturgis is accepting applications for volunteers to serve on the Planning Commission. Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Applicants must reside within 3 miles of the City limits. To apply, go to the City website or call the Human Resources Department at (605)347-4422.

Police Department Receives Bureau of Justice Grant

The Sturgis Police Department has received a U.S. Bureau of Justice grant for \$19,475. This grant is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The Police Department identified the need to improve police response during periods of extreme weather, such as the blizzards that occurred last winter. The grant will allow the department to purchase an all-terrain utility vehicle (UTV) equipped for winter travel, including a cab and all-season tracks.

According to Assistant Chief of Police, Branden Bestgen, there were several times during the last few blizzards that officers were unable to respond to calls for service because roads were completely impassible. The track-equipped UTV will allow officers to respond to emergency calls during severe weather conditions. Bestgen said that the department also utilizes the utility vehicles during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. He said their small size enables them to easily maneuver through the congested downtown traffic. The Sturgis Police Department hopes to add the track-equipped UTV to its fleet within the next few months.



Snow Removal Reminders from Public Works

The success of our snow removal program depends on your assistance.

Here are a few tips:

- When snow is expected, park your vehicles off the street whenever possible.
- Remove snow from your sidewalk within 24 hours.
- Do not shovel snow from your driveway and sidewalk into the street. Place it on your lawn or near trees and shrubs to help with winter watering.
- If you shovel before we plow the street, your driveway or sidewalk may get plowed in. In most cases it is unavoidable.
- Please be patient; we have 40 miles of streets to clear. Moving heavy wet snow takes considerably more time than fluffy snow.
- Snow is removed from life safety and emergency routes first. The second priority is the major arterial streets (Lazelle, Harmon, Ballpark, Sherman, Douglas, Nellie, and the Whitewood Service Road). Followed by major-minor collector streets and school routes. Remaining residential streets are cleared as soon as possible.

It is the goal of the Sturgis Public Works Department to provide the safest driving surfaces possible, using the resources that we have available. In the event of a major winter storm private contractors may be hired by the City to assist with snow removal. Snow removal contractors must be pre-approved and equipment will be clearly identified as being under City contract.

If you have an emergency situation and are not able to get through on your street, call 911. If you would like to get updated information on the snow removal progress, call the Public Works Department at 347-3916. Traffic updates will be posted on the City website and will be available through the Nixle notification system (see the related Nixle article).



New Communication Service is Now Available

The City of Sturgis has a new tool to improve communications with area residents. NIXLE is a Community Information Service built exclusively for secure and reliable communications. Until now, there has never been an authenticated and secure service that connects municipal agencies and community organizations to their residents in real-time, with the same ease and in the same way that current services such as Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter provide. In cases of emergencies Nixle delivers information to consumers over their cell phones (SMS text messaging), emails (computers and smart phone devices), and simple web access at www.nixle.com.

Nixle is completely free to all governments, their agencies and organizations, and consumers. As a consumer, all you need to do is visit www.Nixle.com and sign up. You will be asked to enter your contact information and where you live. By entering your address, specific location-sensitive information can be sent to you in case of emergencies. You can receive information at several different levels which you choose when you sign up. The "Urgent" message type is intended for "urgent must know" notifications. It is similar to what many would refer to as an emergency alert. Only law enforcement and elected or appointed officials can authorize the public release of an urgent message. The "Important" message type is intended both for time-sensitive and non-time-sensitive important neighborhood to community level information, such as a missing person or Amber Alert. The "Advisory" type message may include advisories for public safety, health, weather, traffic and similar kinds of information. The "Community" message type is intended for all municipal and community non-time-sensitive messages, news, and information. As a registered user, you choose the level of advisories you would like to receive. All of the information you provide to Nixle when you register is secure and you can change your settings or unsubscribe at any time. An additional feature offered by Nixle is that you can sign up for more than one geographical location. For example, if you want to be kept informed about a relative living in another state, you can sign up for alerts for that area as well as your home area. If you travel and want to know about developing situations around your destination, you can sign up for that area too.

At this time, the City of Sturgis, the Sturgis Chamber of Commerce, and the National Weather Service are members of the Nixle system. In the future, more agencies will join to provide up to the minute information to all residents who want to stay informed.

Registration is easy, just go to <http://local.nixle.com/registration> and enter the requested information. It only takes a few minutes; your registration information is completely secure and can be changed at any time. The service is free of charge.



Halloween Fun Night

The Sturgis Community Center will be hosting a free Halloween Roller Skating Party for all ages on Halloween. Skates are provided - the fun starts at 4:00 p.m. and will go until 8:00 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes. Sponsored by Action for the Betterment of the Community (ABC).



Contact Information

City Manager 347-4422
Community Development 347-4424
Finance Office 347-4422
Human Resources 347-4422
Rally Department 720-0800
8:00 - 5:00 Mon. - Fri.
1040 2nd Street

Community Center 347-6513
5:00 - 9:00 Mon. - Fri.
8:00 - 8:00 Sat.
Noon - 8:00 Sun.
1401 Lazelle Street

Fire & Ambulance 347-5801
Emergency 911
7:00 - 5:00 Mon. - Fri.
1901 Ball Park Road

Library 347-2624
8:30 - 7:00 Mon. - Thu.
8:30 - 5:00 Fri.
8:30 - 4:00 Sat.
1040 2nd Street

Liquor Store 347-5983
8:00 - 10:00 Mon. - Sat.
10:00 - 8:00 Sun.
1075 Lazelle Street

Parks Department 347-9018
8:00 - 5:00 Mon. - Fri.
1040 2nd Street
Shelter Reservations call
347-4422

Police Department 347-5070
Emergency 911
1400 Main Street

Public Works 347-3916
7:00 - 4:00 Mon. - Fri.
1057 Dudley Street
Rubble Site
8:00 - 5:00 Tue. - Fri.
8:00 - 12:00 and 1:00 - 5:00
Mon. and Sat.

Water Department 347-4425
7:00 - 4:45 Mon. - Fri.
After Hour Emergency call
Police Dispatch 347-2573