

Special Edition - Annexation Voter Information

Reminders

Please shovel the fire hydrants - The Sturgis volunteer Fire Department asks residents to shovel around all fire hydrants so they can be found more quickly in case of emergencies.

The Sturgis Library has announced classes and activities for 2010 - Movies and Literature, Writing Workshops for Teens and Adults, Book Lunches, Game Times, and Computer Classes. For information on all events, call the Library at 347-2624.



The Sturgis community has several elderly residents who find it difficult to remove snow from their sidewalks following a storm. If you would like to help by shoveling walks, please contact City Hall at 347-4422 with your name, contact information, and required wage. The City Manager's Office is compiling a resource list that will be used when residents call City Hall looking for someone they can hire for snow removal. As the list develops it will also be available on the City website.

Announcements and Meetings

Sturgis City Council: Monday, January 4, and Monday, January 18. Council meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. at the Sturgis Community Center, 1401 Lazelle Street.

Forestry: January 6, at 7:00 p.m. downstairs at City Hall.

Planning and Zoning: January 12 and 26, at 6:30 p.m. downstairs at City Hall.

Park Board: January 12, at 7:00 p.m. at Morman Law Firm 850 Main Street.

MUB Board: January 13, at 8:00 a.m. downstairs at City Hall.

Arts Council: January 14, at 7:00 p.m. downstairs at City Hall.

Library Board: January 27, at 4:00 p.m. in the Sturgis City Library.

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

East 34 Annexation Issue Referred to Vote by Full Throttle Saloon Owner

The East 34 Annexation Resolution that was passed on November 17th by the Sturgis City Council has been referred by petition by Full Throttle Saloon owner Mike Ballard. Mr. Ballard, through his lawyer Roger Tellinghuisen, stated his opposition to being annexed at the annexation public hearings held on November 3rd and 17th. Mr. Ballard and his staff gathered enough valid signatures to bring the East 34 Annexation resolution to a vote of the residents. The vote will take place on February 2, 2010 at the Sturgis Community Center, 1401 Lazelle. All registered voters who live in the City and in the proposed annexation area will be eligible to vote in the election. If you are not a registered voter, you have until January 19, at 5:00 p.m. to register at one of several locations including the Meade County Auditor's Office, the City Finance Office, or on-line at www.sdsos.gov. Absentee and sample ballots can be obtained at the City Finance office on January 19. Polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m. For more information call City Hall at 347-4422. To help educate the public regarding the East 34 Annexation, there will be Town Hall meetings scheduled in conjunction with upcoming City Council meetings on January 4, 18, and February 1. The public is encouraged to attend and bring all questions and concerns for discussion. Information is also available at the City website www.sturgis-sd.gov under the Government tab.



Frequently Asked Questions About East 34 Annexation

Why does the Council want to annex the East 34 area?

The East 34 area will bring in an estimated \$250,000 in new revenues that will help pay for street and park improvements and economic development efforts to bring new businesses to town that will create jobs that benefit residents. The additional commercial revenue will help the City reduce its reliance on property taxes from residents. The Council also believes that Highway 34 and 79 will be a future growth area.

Why does the Council want to annex Rally businesses like Full Throttle Saloon, Glencoe Camp Resort and Monkey Rock/Sturgis Thunder Dome?

These Rally businesses profit greatly from the Sturgis Rally; however, these businesses do not pay any taxes or fees to benefit the residents of Sturgis. As a matter of tax fairness, the Council believes these businesses ought to pay taxes to benefit the residents of Sturgis and share in Rally costs.

Will my City taxes go up because of annexation?

No. The City is currently providing Police, Fire, Sewer, Sanitation and Back Up Water Service to the area so there is no significant increase in costs. The property and sales taxes and vendor fees collected from the annexation area will pay for any new services needed.

Do Sturgis residents pay for water or sewer lines in the area?

No. The businesses in the area will be required to pay for their own water or sewer lines through user fees or special assessments if and when they want the services. These services are supported by user fees not taxpayer money.

What about the 79 bypass and future growth?

Meade County is engineering the highway bypass around Sturgis. If the road is built, this could divert business and sales tax from Sturgis. In order to plan for the future, the Council desires to annex along East 34 now to retain future sales tax revenue and plan for orderly growth in the area.

The City is very limited on where Sturgis can grow due to the surrounding hills on the south, north and west. The flat buildable prairie land east of Sturgis is the logical location for future growth.

What are the major costs of annexation?

The primary new cost to the City is snow removal on Highway 34 estimated at \$10,320 annually. The City currently provides maintenance to Glencoe Road as that is the only access to the wastewater treatment plant.

For more information visit www.sturgis-sd.gov.



Christmas Tree Drop Off Locations

You may drop off your trees for recycling at the designated area on Ballpark Road near the Fire Station from December 26 until February 1.

Community Center Receives Upgrades

The Sturgis Community Center recently completed several remodeling projects. According to Rod Heikes, the Community Center Director, these are the first large scale cosmetic upgrades since the facility was built in 1992.

Members will now be able to enjoy the following upgrades:

- New floors in the weight rooms.
- New partitions in the restrooms and locker rooms (scheduled for completion Mid-January 2010).
- Refinished floors in the restrooms and lobby areas.
- A security card system to restrict access to members in certain areas.
- New floor tiles and counter tops in the snack bar and office areas.
- Installation of 10 coin operated lockers in each locker room for added convenience and security.
- New lights over the pool area.
- A new projector in the Meade Room.
- A new security system with several video surveillance cameras to provide better security and safety to members and staff.

The Community Center offers a wide variety of activities for people of all ages. Several membership packages are available. Day pass privileges are also available. Stop by for a tour and visit with our friendly staff about everything we have to offer.

Are you feeling computer challenged?

Basic computer classes for beginners are being offered free of charge at the Sturgis Public Library. You can learn the skills necessary to navigate the internet and other basic computer programs in a fun and relaxing atmosphere. Contact the Library at 347-2624 for registration information.



Sturgis Hosts Tourism and Economic Development Forum

On December 9, representatives from the South Dakota Department of Tourism (DOT) presented a Tourism Update at the Holiday Inn Express. Secretary Richard Benda, along with several other State representatives, shared information relating to the State's 2010 Initiative.

Specific goals that were discussed included:

1. Double visitor spending from \$600 Million to \$1.2 Billion by 2010.
2. Increase the GSP (Gross State Product) by \$10 billion by 2010.
3. Become a recognized leader in research and technology development by 2010.
4. Brand and develop South Dakota's quality of life as the best in America by 2010.
5. Uphold our commitment to the 2010 initiative as a work in progress.

In addition to the Department of Tourism presentation, a special guest speaker Janis Schmees, Executive Director for the Harris County-Houston Sports Authority, was also featured and she shared her insights on how communities can work together to have a major impact on year around economic development and business expansion.

The presentations were attended by several area business owners and governmental officials. The event was sponsored by the City of Sturgis, the Sturgis Area Chamber and Visitors Bureau, and the Sturgis Economic Development Corporation.

To view the 2010- Initiative in full, go to the State web site at www.2010initiative.com/2010initiative.asp.

Winter Driving Tip From The Public Works Department

As winter driving conditions worsen, the Street Department will be sanding signalized intersections, collector routes, and streets with steep inclines. Residential streets are not typically sanded. Speed limits on these streets are posted as 25 mph and drivers should reduce their speed when icy conditions are present and allow for extra distance when stopping.



2009 - The Year in Review

2009 kicked off a busy year with record setting snowfalls. As of April 13, of this year, our area had received over 95 inches of snow for the season topping the previous record of 92.6 inches from the 1983 - 1961 season.

Spring brought heavy rains to the area that caused damage to Bear Butte Creek crossings and played a role in the landslide that closed Sly Hill Road. The Road was repaired and reopened for traffic on December 16. The 7th Street crossing was rebuilt over the summer months using large concrete box culverts that will prevent future flooding problems at that location.

In January, residents received their first monthly issue of the Sturgis Information Publication newsletter. The newsletter includes information about various projects, meetings, and events that are taking place within the community.

In February, the Sturgis City website went live at www.sturgis-sd.gov. This new communications tool has enabled City government to share important information with the community. The website features a variety of information including agendas and minutes of the City Council meetings, employment postings, newsletters, maps, news items, and emergency bulletins.

In March, the first community survey was conducted. Residents responded with their opinions on a wide variety of questions about City services and facilities.

2009 was a successful year for economic development with 20 new businesses calling Sturgis home.

Improvements were completed at Exit 32 that will provide for business expansion in 2010.

April was election month and incumbent Maury LaRue secured the Mayor's position and incumbent Jamie McVay was selected as Ward 3 Councilman.

In June the community held a commemorative lighting ceremony to dedicate the new Sturgis landmark sign. The event included food, games, and entertainment. Plans are underway to make the event an annual celebration to kickoff summer.

The 69th Annual Sturgis Rally brought slightly better than expected numbers of visitors to the area but came to a quick end with severe thunderstorms and hail sending many visitors home early.

The Mustang Rally in September brought a record numbers of car enthusiasts together for poker runs, a parade, and the very popular Main Street Show and Shine.

2009 also brought many visible improvements to our City including 'Welcome to Sturgis' signs at each of the main entrances to the City. Pocket parks were installed in several downtown locations. The parks include benches, shrubs, and visitor information signs. Public restrooms were made available for the first time at the Armory building on Main Street. The Future Sturgis groups were very instrumental in these improvements and their hard work in making Sturgis a more visitor friendly community is very much appreciated.

Over all, 2009 was a busy year in our community and with the help of our citizens, special focus groups, and local businesses, we will continue to move forward with several more community improvement projects in 2010.

Sly Hill Road Open to Traffic

Sly Hill Road was opened to traffic on Wednesday, December 16. The road has been closed since late February due to landslide damage.

Contractors made repairs to the slide area by installing a soldier beam and lagging type system. 60' of guardrail and fresh gravel completed the project. The County also finished repairs to the same road approximately 1/4 mile farther east of the slide area where another landslide did significant damage to the road.

Repairs were paid for with stimulus money from the State. The road is a main thoroughfare for approximately 80 residents who live in the sub-divisions directly north of the slide area and serves as a major access point to and from the north side of town.

Contact Information

City Manager 347-4422
 City Attorney 347-4422
 Community Development 347-4424
 Finance Office 347-4422
 Human Resources 347-4422
 Rally Department 720-0800
 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