

Don't Forget to Vote - February 2

Annexation - Frequently Asked Questions

- **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.
- **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.
- **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 about annexation, visit www.sturgis-sd.gov.

Annual Report to the Citizens

The following is a list of accomplishments that were reached in 2009 through the hard work of our City employees, and the support of the City Council, and the citizens of our community.

Council Goals – Working together the staff and the Council accomplished 33 of 42 short, medium and long goals the Council set last year. Most of the remaining goals will be addressed with the update of the Comprehensive Plan based on the Future Sturgis visioning process.

Future Sturgis – Town Hall meetings were held in March and September reporting progress on many issues ranging from the downtown to Exit 32.

City Tax Rate Reduction – Further progress was made to reduce the City's tax rate for the 3rd consecutive year from .00797 to .00763.

Street Improvements – The Overlay Program installed 30 blocks of pavement and an additional 25 Blocks received chip and seal improvements.

Murray Addition Improvements - Project Phases I & II started in August and will be completed in 2010. The City secured a \$214,000 Stimulus Grant for affected residents.

Job Creation – The City worked with Sturgis Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) to help attract Remington/Dakota Arms, Land Sport and Bar-Sto Precision Arms involving 65 jobs.

Purchasing Program Savings – The City saved \$396,481 by following the Purchasing Policy guidelines.

Sponsorship Revenue Increases – The City increased Sponsorship revenue by 25% to \$455,000 with the retention of Motoring USA and introduction of new events downtown.

Exit 32 Improvements – The City acquired and improved three parcels at Exit 32 from the SD DOT and began the retail business attraction program in cooperation with the SEDC and the Sturgis Chamber of Commerce.

New Retail Businesses – The community added seven new retail businesses in 2009 and 18 since 2008.

Insurance Reduction – The City was able to reduce the insurance rating of Sturgis from a 6 to a 5 resulting in lower insurance premiums for residents due to improvements in fire protection services. (See the ISO article below)

Community Center Improvements – The City implemented many new, quality enhancements to improve the experience of our residents at the Community Center.

Sly Hill Reconstruction – The City secured a \$425,000 Federal Disaster Grant and DOT financing to reconstruct and repair the Sly Hill Road.

Airport Improvements – FAA Grants were secured for \$403,370 for the Apron and Airport Layout Plan.

Pineview Paving Project – Staff worked with residents to form a Special Pavement District to pave Pineview Drive.

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Improved ISO Ratings May Lower Insurance Premiums

ISO is the property/casualty insurance industry's leading supplier of statistical, actuarial, underwriting, and claims data. Their analytic and decision-support services help their customers (insurance companies) compete effectively.

Recently ISO developed a Public Protection Class report (PPC) for the City of Sturgis. Generally, the PPC applies to properties within five road miles of a fire station and within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant. ISO generally assigns a rating of Class 10 to properties beyond five road miles, thus leading to hire premium costs for those areas.

In general, the price of property insurance in a community with a good PPC is lower than in a community with a higher PPC, assuming all other factors are equal. PPC may also

affect the availability of insurance for a variety of coverage's, such as homeowners, mobile homes and commercial property insurance, including business interruption.

The Sturgis Fire Department has worked diligently over the past couple years to prepare for the ISO survey, which was conducted in May of 2009.

The City was recently notified by ISO; the end result of the survey for the Citizens of Sturgis is a favorable reduction from a Protection Class 6 to a Protection Class 5.

Becoming a Protection "Class 5" city puts us among the top 23% of the cities in the country for fire protection and in

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2010 Census is Coming

ABOUT THE CENSUS

- Everyone in the United States must be counted in the 2010 Census. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens and noncitizens.
- Census data is used to reapportion congressional seats to states and assure proper district representation.
- The 2010 Census is easy, important and safe, and your participation is vital.
- It's easy: The 2010 Census form is one of the shortest census forms in history and takes about 10 minutes to complete.
- It's important: Census data directly affects how more than \$400 billion per year in federal funding is distributed to state, local and tribal governments.
- Census data guides local planning decisions, including where to provide additional social services, establish child-care and senior citizen centers, and build new roads, hospitals, schools, job training and community centers.
- It's safe: By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. All Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years, or both.



ABOUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE

- One of the shortest census forms in history, the 2010 Census form asks 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete.
- Census forms will be delivered or mailed to households in March 2010; households should complete and mail back their forms upon receipt. Census workers will visit households that do not return the forms to take a count in person.
- Census Day is April 1, 2010. Responses to the census form must include everyone at that address.
- Questionnaire Assistance Centers (QAC) will be available to assist those unable to read or understand the census form.

MAINTAIN YOUR PRIVACY

If someone comes to your door asking for Social Security numbers, bank account, credit card information or any personal information, do not give it out. Census workers will not ask you for that information, besides, they are easy to identify. They'll have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag and a confidentiality notice. If you don't believe the person is working for the Census Bureau, don't give them any information and call the Sturgis Police Department.

(Annual Report continued from front)

7th Street Bridge Replacement – The City obtained a \$35,000 FEMA grant to install a permanent concrete box culvert crossing at 7th Street.

Vanocker Creek Maintenance Project – The City continued to install flood management improvements in Vanocker Creek to mitigate flooding for residents.

Snow Removal Efforts - The Public Works crews removed 47,163,600 cubic feet of snow from 3 blizzards in March.

Budgeting - Budget balance savings of \$1,328,094

Customer Service - Staff serviced and resolved 484 citizen cases on the Sturgis Listens Citizen Relationship Management System.

Annexation Vote February 2

The election for the East 34 Annexation issue is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2010. The election will be held at the Sturgis Community Center at 1401 Lazelle Street. All registered voters who live in the City and in the proposed annexation area will be eligible to vote in this election. Polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m. A sample ballot can be viewed on the City website at www.sturgis-sd.gov click on Voting Information under the Government tab.



Annexation topics will be discussed at a Town Hall meeting held in conjunction with the regular City Council meeting on Monday, February 1. The public is invited to attend this meeting.

(ISO continued from front)

the top 6% of the rated fire departments in the State of South Dakota.

Depending on which insurance carrier you have, the reduction in protection class will allow most landowners within the City to see a reduction or savings related to their insurance premiums. Each insurance company establishes the premiums it charges its policyholders. The way a company uses ISO's information on public fire protection may depend on the company's own fire-loss experience, ratemaking methodology, underwriting guidelines, and marketing strategy. To see if your insurance is affected by this change to the ISO rating, contact your insurance provider.

Cities across the nation have also utilized ISO's detailed public fire protection information to aggressively pursue new business. Because of improvements made to our fire department and future planned improvements to our water supply, and communications systems; the City may be able to gain a competitive advantage in the recruitment of new companies and residents.

2010 Programs at the Library

In 2010, the Library will host a variety of programs for all ages including the following:

Movies and Literature – Join with other lovers of literature and discuss your favorite books that have been turned into movies. The group will meet on the last Saturday of each month to discuss the book and then watch the movie.

Writing Workshop for Adults – Do you need help with your resume, cover letter, or even interviewing? This writing workshop is for people looking for a new job. The group will meet on the second Saturday of each month.

Game Time – Children ages Kindergarten-5th grade are invited to the library every Saturday any time between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm to play games such as Monopoly, Clue, Sorry, Battleship, Checkers, Chess, Risk, etc.

Computer Classes – Computer classes will continue in 2010. They are held on Thursday at 5:30 pm in the library. Classes are free to the public, but they can fill up fast so call the library to register.

If you would like to sign up for a class please call the Library at 347-2624. To see a full list of programs visit the City website at www.sturgis-sd.gov.



Holiday Schedule

City offices will be closed on Monday, February 15 in observance of President's Day. Trash pick up normally scheduled for Monday will be picked up on Tuesday the 16th. **City Council meetings** are scheduled for Monday, February 1, and Tuesday, February 16. Visit www.sturgis-sd.gov for all meeting schedules.

Don't Miss Out on Winter Play

The City skating rink is located on the east end of Lazelle Street adjacent to Lions Club Park and is available for public use.



Enjoy some old fashioned fun with your family this winter!

Petitions for City Council Election Available at City Hall

Petitions to run for City Council are now available at City Hall. To be placed on the election ballot, a candidate must secure a minimum number of signatures as determined by the Finance Officer. Petitions must be completed between January 29 and February 26. Petitions must be turned in to City Hall by 5:00 p.m. on February 26.

Each of the four voting wards will have one position to fill. City Council representatives serve two year terms and are paid a salary of \$8,058 per year.



Join Us for a Free Week at the Community Center



Stop by January 23-31 to check out our newly remodeled facilities and meet our friendly staff.

Spin the Wheel for 10%-50% off new and renewal annual memberships.

For more information including hours of operations go to www.sturgis-sd.gov or call 347-6513.

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
8:00 - 4:45 Mon. - Fri.
After Hour Emergency call
Police Dispatch 347-2573