

Items of Interest

Basic Computer Classes are held each Thursday at the Sturgis Public Library from 5:30 to 6:30. Classes are free and registration is not required. For details, contact the Sturgis Library at 347-2624.

March 10 Preservation Workshop 6:00 p.m. at the Library. Learn from an expert how to protect and preserve your family photos and valuable documents.

March 31 Future Sturgis State of the Community - public meeting 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center Theater.

Stop by the Library in March and see the quilts on display.



March 13 Daylight Savings Time Begins... Spring Ahead 1 Hour



Announcements and Meetings

Planning and Zoning Commission: March 1, 15, and 29 at 6:30 p.m. downstairs at City Hall, Room B.

Forestry: March 3 at 5:30 p.m. at the Sturgis Fire Hall.

Sturgis City Council: Monday, March 7 and 21 at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are held at the Sturgis Community Center on Lazelle Street.

MUB Board: March 9 at 8:00 a.m. downstairs at City Hall, Room A.

Sturgis Arts Council: March 10 at 7:00 p.m. downstairs at City Hall, Room A.

Park Board: March 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Morman Law office.

Library Board: March 30 at 4:00 p.m. at the Sturgis Library.

Officials

Mayor

Maury LaRue 347-4422

Council Members

Ward One:

Joe DesJarlais 347-7928

Kelly Vasknetz 490-0361

Ward Two:

Mark Carstensen 561-0283

David Hersrud 347-5061

Ward Three:

Clint Brengle 720-0171

Jamie McVay 720-5780

Ward Four:

Tim Potts 720-4233

Bernadette Usera 720-9424

City Manager

Dave Boone 347-4422

Understanding Property Taxes

As tax time approaches, we wanted to share some information about your property tax bill and what the City is doing to help reduce it.

Meade Schools, Meade County and the City use property tax dollars to provide services that citizens want; a safe place for their family to live with good schools and a high quality of life. There are three steps to determine the property taxes for the School, County and City.

The first step is for the Meade County Assessor to reflect the market value of all property based on comparable sales. The actions of people buying and selling real estate in Sturgis determine market value. These individual selling prices are compared to their individual assessment. From these individual sales, a sales to assessment ratio is calculated. (Home sells for \$150,000 but is only assessed at \$126,000 gives the sales to assessed ratio of 84%). It is this ratio that determines the level of assessment in Sturgis. All property is to be assessed at or near market value by state law. Those areas that are not over 85% of

market or not "equalized" with other like property must be reappraised by the local assessor. The assessor can make individual adjustments to assessments on a case by case basis or by property class and on a neighborhood or community wide basis depending on the market activity in the area. According to the Meade County Assessor, properties throughout Meade County are currently assessed on average near 90%.

The second step is to determine the amount of taxes needed to meet the costs of operating the Schools, the County and the City. The higher the cost of operating the School district, the County or the City, the larger the revenues required from property taxes.

In the fight against higher taxes, economic development is very important to the City; the more the City grows, the lower the property tax burden per resident and the more our sales tax revenues grow, the less we depend on property taxes.

(Continued on next page)

Council Places Restrictions On Temporary Structures

After discussions at two public meetings, the Sturgis City Council approved the second reading of an ordinance limiting the time a temporary structure can be in place. Under the new ordinance, vendors can not have their temporary structures in place more than seven days prior to opening for business.

The time limit is based on the dates of the temporary vending permit. Vendors must take down their tents within four days after their temporary vending permit expires. No vending can take place outside the days indicated on the temporary vending permit.

Additional changes include language making the landowner subject to the enforcement of the ordinance. Under current city laws, vendors can purchase two 12-day temporary vendor permits, however, the ordinance also states that temporary structures may only be in place for a maximum of 30 days.



(Property Taxes continued from page 1)

The third step is to establish a tax rate to apply to individual properties for the School, County and the City, based on steps one and two. The tax rate for all property in the City is arrived at by dividing the value of all the property into the amount of the budget that is unfunded from other sources. This calculation results in a tax rate expressed in dollars of property value. So in the case of the City our request of \$2,560,394 (same as in 2009 and 2010) divided by the total assessed valuation in the city of \$337,066,023 equals 0.007596 which is the tax rate. Example: A tax breakdown of a home purchased for \$150,000 and assessed at \$126,000 would look like this:

Unit	Value	Tax Rate	Tax Bill
School:	\$126,000 X 0.008692 =		\$1,095.19
County:	\$126,000 X 0.005803 =		\$ 731.18
City:	\$126,000 X 0.007596 =		\$ 957.10
	Total		\$2,783.47

In summary, your tax bill is made up of three units of local government; Meade Schools is 40%, Meade County is 26% and the City of Sturgis is 34% of your total tax bill.

Last year the City's rate was .007632 so the City was able to reduce our tax rate by 0.000036. It is the City's goal to continue to reduce the tax rate through growing the sales tax base through economic development and improving our efficiency and cutting unnecessary costs. The City continuously reviews programs and services to find opportunities to improve the efficiency, reduce costs and save money. For example, our Purchasing Program saved the City over \$203,839 in 2010. We regularly assess program efficiencies and identify opportunities to reduce costs so we request only the dollars we need to provide quality services to you, our residents.

For more information on the City tax structure and 2011 budget, visit the City website at: www.sturgis-sd.gov or call our office at 347-4422.

Dave Boone
Sturgis City Manager

Employee Spotlight - Sturgis Finance Department

Working closely with the City Manager, the Finance Office is responsible for the City's cash flow: monitoring City spending and budgets, processing claims for payment, receiving monies, processing payroll, managing vendors, monitoring grants and contracts, and administering TIF districts and bonds.

The Finance Office is also responsible for recording and maintaining the City's official records, everything from Council minutes to cemetery burial records.

In addition to the financial duties, the Sturgis Finance Office is also responsible for overseeing and managing all aspects of the municipal election process for both annual and special elections. They set the election schedule, provide candidates and voters with election information, verify signatures of registered voters on each petition, confirm candidate eligibility, print ballots, hire and train polling place staff, and ensure election results are properly canvassed. The Finance Office also ensures that federal, state and local election laws are upheld.



The Sturgis Finance Department has over 85 years of combined Municipal Finance Office experience.

Pictured from left back: Ann Bertolotto - Deputy Finance Officer, Joyce Ehlers - Accounts Payable, Elaine Wolken - Accounting Clerk. Front left: Jeanie Shyne - Deputy Finance Officer, and Fay Bueno - Finance Officer.

Sign Ordinance Will Be Enforced During Upcoming Election

With a City Election just around the corner, the Sturgis Code Enforcement Department wants to remind candidates and supporters to be careful where campaign signs are placed.

Per City Ordinance Title 30.04.01, political signs can not exceed 32 square feet in size and must be removed within one week after the election.

Signs can not be placed in areas of public right of way such as between sidewalks and streets or on areas designated as public property.

Signs may be placed on private property with the permission of the land owner.

Any signs that do not meet or follow the guidelines will be removed by Code Enforcement officers without notice.

If you have questions about where to place a sign, contact the City Code Enforcement Office at 347-4424.



Campaign signs can not be placed in public right of ways or on public property.

Sturgis Liquor Moves Into New Location

Sturgis Liquor began moving into its new location at 1075 Lazelle Street on February 21. Store Manager, Tom Ferguson, is very happy with the new store and the ability to provide customers with an expanded selection. So far, feedback from customers has been very positive and the



The new store features a tasting area for use during special promotions and events.

employees are enjoying working in a more functional environment.

There will be a formal grand opening scheduled in May, after the old building has been removed and the parking area has been surfaced. As in the past, some of the parking area will be used for vending and displays during the Rally.

Store hours will remain the same: Monday - Saturday 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Sunday 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Sturgis Community Center

Girls 4th - 6th grade volleyball registration runs February 28 - March 4.

Visit our Facebook page for all our upcoming events and program information.



Contact Information

City Manager 347-4422
City Attorney 347-4422
Code Enforcement 347-4424
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 Ballpark 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.
1920 Ballpark Road
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
1040 2nd Street

At The Library In March

March 6-12 Teen Tech Week
March 10 Preservation Workshop 6:00 p.m.
March 16 Teen Advisory Group Meeting 3:45 p.m.
March 18 History at High Noon 12:00 p.m.
March 19 Very Hungry Caterpillar Birthday Party 1:00 p.m.
March 22 Pizza & Pages Book Club for Teens 4:30 p.m.
March 25 Book Lunch 12:00 p.m.
Quilt Display by local artists all month

The Sturgis Fire Department reminds residents to check and replace the batteries in your fire alarms when you change your clocks for Daylight Savings Time on March 13.

