



1040 2nd Street, Suite 103
Sturgis, SD 57785



Sturgis Information Publication

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Benefit Held to Assist Local Producers and Community

On October 22 the City of Sturgis along with Sturgis Brown High School, Meade 46-1 School District, Sturgis GroceryMart, L Jeffery Catering, Lynn's Dakotamart, Schwan's, Sturgis Coffee, Sturgis Economic Development and Sturgis Subway hosted a soup supper fund raising event.

\$9,573 was collected at the event. In addition, Sturgis Economic Development made a \$250 donation. Those proceeds collected at the event went to the Rancher Relief Fund. The City will match the same amount in a donation to the Sturgis Community to assist with storm relief efforts in the City.

The Rancher Relief Fund is a 501c3 tax deductible organization administered by the Black Hills Area Community Foundation (BHACF) in cooperation with the South Dakota Stock Growers Association, the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association and the South Dakota Sheep Producers Association for the direct benefit of the livestock producers impacted by the recent storm.

Mayor Mark Carstensen recently stated "As Sturgis residents continue to recover from the recent blizzard, we also recognize the need to help the greater Sturgis area community of ranchers and agriculture related producers. The road to recovery will be long and we will all need to work together as one community."

To learn more about the Black Hills Area Community Foundation or if you would like to help with the relief efforts, please call 605-342-0249 or visit the Storm Recovery Information page of the City website.



Food for the event was prepared by the Sturgis Brown High School ProStart/Culinary Arts Class.

Social Media Helps Residents Stay Informed During Storm

Even with the loss of power, many area residents stayed informed during the recent snow storm. Cell phones were used to receive text messages, e-mails and even to browse the internet. Information about closures and street conditions were found on the City website and a running list of storm related damages, power outage updates and news items, complete with photos, were posted on community Facebook pages such as *Sturgisbuzz* and *Meade County Town Hall*.

We live in an information age and the public relies on social media more now than ever before.

This method of communication has become so important, many news agencies provide emergency

notification messages to subscribers along with specialized apps designed for use in emergencies.

The American Red Cross offers several mobile apps designed to assist with storm tracking, locating emergency shelters, administering first aid and connecting with family members in areas affected by a disaster. These apps are free to download from the Red Cross website at <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/mobile-apps>.



Upcoming Events and Activities

City offices will be closed on Monday, November 11 for Veterans Day. Trash that is normally picked up on Monday will be picked up on Tuesday. City offices will also be closed on November 28 and 29 for Thanksgiving.

History at High Noon - Friday, November 15 at the Library.

High School Musical - November 14-16 in the Community Center Theater.

Kenny Putnum - November 17 in the Community Center Theater.

Festival of Trees - November 22 at 5:30 p.m. First Interstate Bank.

Community Thanksgiving - Thursday, November 28 at the Community Center 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Transportation is available by calling 490-8271 in advance (handicap accessible). Sponsored by Impact Youth Mission & Sturgis Community Churches. Open to the public - goodwill donations accepted.

Sturgis Police Department is now on Facebook!



Upcoming Meetings

Sturgis City Council: November 4 and 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the Erskine Building. Note: If you want to be scheduled on the City Council agenda, you must notify the Finance Office by 4:00 p.m. on Monday the week prior to the Council meeting.

MUB: November 13 at 8:00 a.m. at City Hall, Room A.

Planning and Zoning: November 5 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, Room A.

Library Board: November 20 at 4:00 p.m. at the Sturgis Library.

Officials

Mayor

Mark Carstensen 490-1044

Council Members

Ward One:

Mike Bachand 490-1054

Kelly Vasknetz 490-0361

Ward Two:

David Hersrud 347-5061

Marcia Johnston 347-2483

Ward Three:

Jason Anderson 490-1618

Ron Waterland 720-5010

Ward Four:

Branden Bestgen 644-6005

Tim Potts 720-4233

City Manager

Daniel Ainslie 347-4422

Storm Tests City Resources and Residents' Resolve

When the National Weather Service predicted an early fall storm, most residents felt adequately prepared. The severity of the storm, however, caught many off guard.

During the two-day storm, the area received nearly three feet of snow accompanied by 70 mph winds.

Soon after hearing the initial forecast, staff began making preparations. Along Lazelle and Moose Drive, all storm drains had to have the protective construction coverings removed to allow for drainage and snow removal equipment was made ready. As the heavy rains turned to snow and wind began taking down tree limbs, the calls for emergency assistance began.



During the storm, the Sturgis Ambulance Service responded to 92 calls from patients who were without power and who were in need of oxygen. The majority of these calls were answered with assistance from the Sturgis Fire Department, who used a suburban equipped with mattracks to travel on top of the snow. The Fire Department had several calls to fire alarms that were triggered when roofs collapsed or when live wires came in contact with branches. In some cases, the Public Works Department assisted BHP by plowing emergency trails to areas where workers needed to repair power lines. All the while, crews were busy trying to keep emergency routes clear of snow and branches that were blocking streets. One plow was dispatched to clear a path to Highway 14A where the Police Department was conducting a search for a missing person. The Parks Department was busy removing snow from the Fire and Ambulance Hall with a loader.

At 11:00 p.m. on Friday, the City Manager received an urgent call from Sturgis Regional Hospital where windows were breaking from the weight of snow drifts. The Wastewater Superintendent and an Equipment

Operator responded to find that much of the snow had to be removed by hand as the equipment was not able to fit into the tight spaces.

At 2:30 a.m. on Saturday, plowing was suspended due to poor visibility. At that time, the skeleton crew returned to the shop and were on standby responding only to emergency calls for assistance from police and fire.

At 5:30 a.m. on Saturday, as the heavy snow began to taper off, it became obvious that the motor graders were not going to be able to push the snow. Crews added tire chains to all three graders and changed one of the straight blades to a V blade. By using one V blade equipped grader followed by two normal graders the plowing resumed. In addition to the graders, a blower attached to a front end loader was used to clear Lazelle.

Traditionally, the City has multiple plows out and snow removal operations take place in all four wards simultaneously; however, all the graders had to work together to get through the heavy snow. This method of plowing went on for the next 12 hours. By 6:00 p.m. a second shift of two operators was brought in to continue working through the night. The entire town had a minimum of one lane open less than 36 hours after the snow quit and several hours before the SD DOT opened the Interstate.



Throughout the blizzard, numerous employees including City, County, State DOT and Regional Hospital along with Black Hills Power crews were transported from their homes to their work sites.

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Storm Continued...

By Monday morning, City staff had created an Emergency Operations Center at City Hall. Debris drop off locations had been identified and were operational. Most meetings and events were cancelled.

Preparations were made with the Red Cross for emergency sheltering in the event of prolonged power outages or flooding.

During and following the storm, daily press releases were posted on the City website with information about branch drop off sites, closures, power restoration updates and other storm related information. All incoming calls were sent to the Finance Office to help streamline information. The SD 211 Helpline was activated for the Sturgis area and began taking calls for assistance.

With the forecast calling for heavy rain in the days following the storm, preparations were made to reduce

the possibility of flooding. Crews were dispatched to inspect and evaluate damage to drainages and waterways. Contractors were hired to help clear debris from waterways and additional sand bags were secured.

City staff soon began meeting with affected businesses and worked with Sturgis Economic Development staff to find alternative locations for businesses who were temporarily displaced.

As of October 21, the State was beginning the evaluation process required in order to request a disaster declaration. Until a disaster declaration is made by the federal government the cost of all public storm related recovery is the responsibility of the City. Just within the city limits, recovery is expected to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and will take several months to complete.

Storm Clean Up Requires Time and Energy

Immediately following the storm, several tree limb collection sites were made available to residents. The Exit 32 recycling area and the Rubble Site remain open for free limb drop off. During the first two weeks following the storm, more than 1,000 dump trucks full of limbs were transported from the downtown drop off sites to the Rubble Site.

As clean up efforts continue, the city asks residents to not pile limbs on the curbs, sidewalks and right of ways. The City does not have staff available at this time to pick them up.

If you need assistance with clean up, please call the South Dakota Helpline by dialing 211. Operators at the Help Line will help you get in contact with volunteers. Several volunteer groups have worked countless hours to help residents clean up after the storm.



The Exit 32 recycling area has served double duty as a tree limb drop off collection site.

Contact Information

City Hall 347-4422
City Attorney 347-4422
Code Enforcement and Inspections 347-4422

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 - 5:00 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. - Thur.
8:30 - 5:00 Fri.
8:30 - 4:00 Sat.
1040 2nd Street

Liquor Store 347-5983
8:00 - 9:00 Mon. - Sat.
10:00 - 6:00 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.
1040 2nd Street

After Hours Emergency call
Police Dispatch 347-2573
Drop boxes:
2901 Vanocker Canyon and
City Hall 1040 2nd Street