



1040 2nd Street, Suite 103
Sturgis, SD 57785



Reminders & Upcoming Events

City offices will be closed on Friday, April 18 for Good Friday. Trash normally collected on Friday will be picked up on Thursday.

Reminder - There will not be a municipal election in 2014.

Womanless Beauty Pageant Contest - Saturday, April 26 3:00 to 5:00 at the Sturgis Vet's Club. Proceeds go to the CISS Shelter.

All City Rummage Sale - Saturday, May 3.
Call the Sturgis Chamber at 347-2556 for more information.

City Wide Clean Up - May 5 - 9.

Visit the City Website for information about what will be picked up and other details.

Green Thumb Gala - May 5-9 at the Sturgis Library.

Flower Pot Auction and reception will be Friday, May 9.



Upcoming Meetings

Sturgis City Council: April 7 and 21 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.

Forestry Board: May 1 at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

Park Board: April 15 at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

MUB: April 9 at 8:00 a.m. at City Hall, Room A.

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

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



Sturgis Information Publication

Volume 6, Issue 3
March, 2014

Scott Peterson Motors Breaks Ground On New Ford Store and Retail Complex

On March 6, Scott Peterson Motors broke ground for their new Ford store and Retail Complex located south of Exit 32.

In addition to the Ford store and Service Center, the 22+ acre parcel will be home to a retail complex, disc golf course and a dog park.

The October blizzard destroyed their original store which was located on Junction Avenue.

Construction is currently underway and the new store is scheduled to open this fall.



Understanding Property Taxes

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

Your total property tax bill is made up of three parts, Meade Schools, Meade County and the City. Each entity uses 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 are considered not "equalized" with other like property and must be reassessed by the local assessor. The assessor can make individual adjustments to assessments on a case by case basis or by property class and/or on a neighborhood or community wide basis depending on the market activity in the area.

Continued Inside...



Property Tax continued from page 1...

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 more revenue is required from property taxes.

The final step is to establish a tax rate based on the items in steps one and two.

What Can The City Do To Stabilize Property Taxes?

In the fight against higher taxes, economic development is very important to the City; the more our residents shop locally and the more the City grows, the more the property tax burden is lowered for our residents.

Economic Development takes many forms.

The City has resources in the form of funds that are collected through the BBB tax. The BBB tax is a 1% tax that is collected on specific purchases related to tourism such as hotels, dining and entertainment.



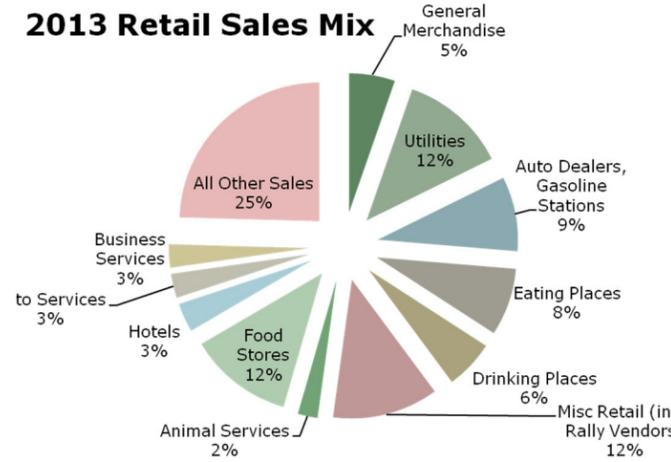
The BBB collections increased by 2.8% in 2013. These funds are used exclusively for economic development purposes such as:

- Targeted loans for expansion of new and existing retailers.
- Funds to help Sturgis Economic Development Corp (SEDC) provide incentives for new businesses.
- Funding is provided to the Sturgis Chamber to enhance programs for retail expansion.
- Land areas are identified for future business development.

The City will continue to work towards a business friendly environment by recruiting new businesses and assisting our current businesses with expansion efforts.

The Role of Sales Tax In Our Community

We have all been encouraged to buy local because when we do, we provide jobs for our neighbors and our tax money stays here in the community. In 2013, the City experienced a 6% increase in sales tax collections. This was a tremendous increase compared to the average 3% growth in 2009-2012. The average state growth in 2013 was 3.6%. This is truly good news for our community because the more our sales tax revenues grow from spending within our community, the less we depend on property taxes.



Responsible Spending Practices

Another way to reduce the dependence on property tax is to curb spending and increase revenues. In 2013, the City was able to save money by identifying several areas of inefficiency. For the past two years, the City has reduced spending by more than \$500,000 despite insurance and utility cost increases. The City staff are good stewards and will continue to work hard to identify further cost savings in the future.



Public Works Notice

As spring approaches, we may experience additional water levels. City Ordinance (11.05.44) regarding sump pumps requires users to pump water into the street for disposal into the storm drains. Pumping water into the sewer system is prohibited.

Building Permit Required?

In 2013, the Sturgis Building Inspection Office issued over 400 permits. The permits covered new decks, sidewalks, roof repairs, fences and many other home and business improvements.

The office often answers questions regarding whether or not a permit is required for homeowner improvement projects.

The following jobs do not require a permit:

- Installation of new flooring
- Painting/staining
- Repairs or installation of gutters
- Residential landscaping



Permits are required for the following:

- New fencing \$25 fee
- Re-siding \$25 fee
- Re-Roofing \$25 fee
- Decks \$25 fee
- Concrete work \$25 fee
- Remodeling & new construction fees are based on total value of the improvements.

Permits are good for one year from the date of issue. Permits can be obtained by visiting the Building Inspection Office at City Hall. Office hours are Monday - Friday 8:00 am until 5:00 pm. For more information about permitting please call the office at 347-4422 ext. 2 or visit the Code Compliance and Zoning web page on the City website at sturgis-sd.gov. Permit applications are available for download from this website.

Sturgis Community Garden

Applications for planting spots in the Community Garden are now available at the Finance Office in City Hall.

For details, visit the Community Garden webpage located under the Parks Department tab on the City website. Deadline is April 14.

The Water Billing Office has moved to the Finance Department.

Please pay your water bill at the Finance window or drop it into the after hours drop box outside City Hall.

FIREFIIGHTERS WANTED

Individuals interested in becoming members of the Sturgis Volunteer Fire Department. No experience necessary, must be at least 18 years of age, must possess a valid drivers license and be willing to serve our community.

Contact Chief Trigg 347-5801



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
8:00 - 7:00 Mon. - Thur.
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 - 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 347-4422
8:00 - 5:00 Mon. - Fri.
1040 2nd Street
After Hours Emergency call
Police Dispatch 347-2573
Payment Drop Box:
City Hall 1040 2nd Street