



2016 Annual Report

This Annual Report provides a summary of the various projects and accomplishments that took place throughout our community in 2016.

Several capital improvement projects were completed in 2016.



Improvements at the Sturgis Community Center included new flooring in the gymnasium as well as painting and sealing the pool. The ceiling was repainted and a new, non-slip surface was applied to the decking around the pool. These improvements totaled \$241,278. A re-grand opening was held on June 15.

- \$816,285 was invested in a wastewater screen at the lagoons.
- Anna Street Storm Drainage Project totaling \$762,009 created a concrete drainage channel from Anna Street to Harmon Street. This area previously received minor flooding following heavy rains due to inadequate drainage.
- A new water main and a new drop sewer manhole were installed on Fleet Street. These improvements came to \$125,182.
- The parking lot at the Fire & Ambulance Hall was expanded at a cost of \$89,937.
- The Library and Auditorium received new roofs which cost \$187,382.
- The \$3.5 million Sturgis Main Street Reconstruction Project began in September. The project included new utilities as well as new curb, gutter, sidewalks, lighting and landscaping. The project will be complete in June of 2017.

Several new capital improvement projects are scheduled to take place in 2017. A new waste water treatment facility will be constructed at the current lagoon site. A new park shelter will replace the existing 'Old Stone Shelter' and several streets, including Ballpark Road, will receive chip and seal treatment.

The City will continue to strive to decrease the mill levy while investing in capital improvement projects that will enhance the quality of life in our community.

In 2016, the City experienced continued residential growth and business expansion. As a result of efforts made by the City Council, Sturgis Economic Development and the Sturgis Chamber, 2016 saw more new construction and business expansion than in the last 40 months combined.

The City also continued to focus on improving efficiencies and enhancing customer service. Those efforts included a major reorganization of City Departments. The reorganization included moving the Parks Department and the Water Department under the Public Works umbrella. This change allowed for cross training of employees as well as the ability to better utilize shared equipment and facilities. A new Administrative Services Department was formed to include Human Resources, Payroll and Public Information. The Planning and Permitting Department now includes Code Enforcement, Building Inspections and a Planning/GIS Coordinator.

In July, the City hired a full-time City Engineer to assist with many infrastructure projects that previously required hiring outside service professionals.

The Rally Department brought the duties of Sponsorship recruitment in-house when they hired Lance Scherer as the new Sponsorship Coordinator.

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2017 Sturgis City Council

Mayor: Mark Carstensen

Ward 1 Aldermen:
◆ Mike Bachand
◆ Rod Bradley

Ward 2 Aldermen:
◆ David Martinson
◆ Tony Dargatz


Ward 3 Aldermen:
◆ Jason Anderson
◆ Ron Waterland

Ward 4 Aldermen:
◆ Steve Keszler
◆ Rhea Crane

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City of Sturgis SD	Sturgis Community Center
City of Sturgis Public Works	Sturgis Motorcycle Rally
Sturgis Public Library	Sturgis Liquor
City of Sturgis Rally and Events	Sturgis Ambulance
Sturgis Police Department	
Sturgis Volunteer Fire Department	
Sturgis/Meade County Animal Shelter	





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City of Sturgis Mission Statement: "To provide an attractive, growing community being served by a professional staff that offers reliable, quality municipal services."

Parks Department - Teamed up with Black Hills Trails and residents to make improvements to the trail system along the eastern boundary of the City. This trail system ties in with trails located on Ft. Meade and BLM properties. The City also worked with Black Hills Trails and the City Council to establish a Deadman Trailhead parking area at the corner of Pine View Drive and Vanocker Canyon Road. The Deadman Trail starts just south of the parking lot at the edge of Canyon View Estates. To learn more about various trails in our area and how you can help, visit the Black Hills Trails Facebook page.



The City Engineer began work to replace the Old Stone Shelter in the City Park. A new shelter will be in place by early summer of 2017. Design work also began on the Ft. Meade South Loop Project. This 2.5 mile, crushed limestone, recreational trail around the Ft. Meade campus will include points of historical significance and informational signage. The new trail will tie into the existing City recreational trail that runs from downtown Sturgis to the High School. The trail will be complete in 2017.



Official Opening
Bike Path Connector

Volunteer Fire Department - The members of the Sturgis Volunteer Fire Department serve and protect the community of Sturgis as well as a 580 square-mile area of Meade and Lawrence Counties in South Dakota. The Department currently has 44 active members.



In 2016, the Department responded to 217 calls for service. 48% of calls were located within city limits.

The City of Sturgis awarded Scott Lensgrav and Clint Walker with the Municipal Medal of Honor for their life saving efforts during a residential house fire in July.

Ambulance - The Ambulance Service provides 24-7 Advanced Life Support emergency medical response to the residents of Sturgis as well as communities in western Meade County and eastern Lawrence County. Service territory also includes the I-90 corridor between exits 40 and 28. The service continues to have a high number of inter-facility transfers from both the Ft. Meade VA facility as well as the Sturgis Regional Hospital for patients who need a higher level of care than can be provided locally.



Calls for service: 2,137 calls were received in 2016, compared to 2,273 in 2015 and 1,956 in 2014.

Paramedic training: In 2016, the City sponsored 8 employees for paramedic training through Crowder College. All of the students successfully completed the required coursework and are now pursuing their certification testing through the National Registry. The new Medics have pledged to serve the residents of Sturgis for a minimum of 3 years. By advancing the response skills of existing staff, we are better able to address the staffing shortage of paramedics that the Sturgis Ambulance Service and all other local ambulance services are currently facing.

State recognition: The Service received recognition from the State EMS Office (SD Department of Health) for our outreach initiatives during the May 2016 EMS Week. As a reward, the Service received 3 "peds bags," which provided supplies for our pediatric patients.

Police Department - The Sturgis Police Department responded to a total of 6,910 calls for service during the year. This number includes unfounded as well as founded (actual) complaints. Calls for service the previous year totaled 7,161. This total does not include traffic stops.



In addition to responding to calls for service, Sturgis Police officers initiated 3,270 traffic stops resulting in 621 arrests and/or citations.

As part of an ongoing effort to become more efficient and to provide better customer service, the Planning & Permitting Office implemented a new software program called CitizenServe. This program allows contractors and residents to apply for all building related permits online. The software also allows City staff to interact with applicants electronically when performing inspections, reviewing plans and issuing permits.



Rally and Events - The City of Sturgis welcomed Jerry Cole as the new Director of the Rally and Events Department. Mr. Cole was previously the Executive Director for the Dickinson (ND) Chamber of Commerce.

During the year, the Rally and Events Department successfully hosted the Camaro Rally, Sturgis Supermoto, GranFondo, Sturgis Motorcycle Rally and Sturgis Mustang Rally events. Several smaller events also took place including the Mini USA Rally and the Spirit of Sturgis Vintage Motorcycle Festival.



Rally Contributions - Each year, the City Council makes donations to area non-profits to help them meet the needs of the community members they serve. The funds are generated from the Rally Sponsorship Program, the Mayor's Ride and other special events that take place during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

- In 2016, several groups received contributions on behalf of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.
- 2016 Recipients:**
- Sturgis Rally Charities Foundation \$17,827
 - Sturgis Volunteer Fire Department \$4,500
 - Sturgis Police Reserves \$2,000
 - Sturgis Ambulance Service \$7,500
 - Deadwood VFW/Wounded Warriors Project \$2,000 in recognition of their assistance during the Mayor's Ride.

The City Council continues to work hard to maximize profits from sponsorship, advertising and property leasing which is used to offset property tax and to help our local non-profit agencies.

Sturgis Public Library - There are over 50,354 items in the Sturgis Public Library available to our community. This includes 45,907 books, 1,408 movies, and 925 audio books. The Large Print collection is one of the most popular collections in the library, with over 1,300 titles available. In the past year, over 850 Sturgis patrons have downloaded 8,772 e-books and audio books.

In addition to providing informational materials, the Library hosts many popular programs such as: Baby/Toddler Story Time, "Armchair Travelers" Book Club, "Hour of Code" computer programming for teens, monthly "History at High-Noon" programs,



Programs for
All Ages

exam proctoring, notary services, printing, public computer use, faxing, monthly art exhibits and many after school programs.

Communications - The City strives to provide accurate information to our constituents in a timely and cost effective manner. In 2016, 126,300 visitors used the Sturgis website, viewing 240,000 pages of information.



Many common forms and applications are available on the website along with news items, City Council actions, meeting agendas and calendars. In 2017, the website will undergo a complete re-design. The new page will be mobile friendly and will include an online bill payment option.

Facebook also continues to be an important tool for communicating with residents and visitors. A full list of City Facebook pages is included in this report.

The Sturgis Information Publication (SIP) continues to communicate with constituents on a monthly basis. The SIP is available via U.S. Mail, and at the Library. All back issues are also posted on the City website.

Code Enforcement - In 2016, the Code Enforcement Officer identified 166 code violations. Inspections were based on citizen complaints as well as visual observations. After notifications were made, 6 citations were issued, resulting in \$500 in fines. The remaining violations were resolved without a citation being issued.



Building Inspections - In 2016, the Planning & Permitting Department issued 58 building permits for new residential units, 12 permits for new commercial buildings and 2 permits for industrial construction. Those permits had an estimated combined value of \$18,231,000. Additionally, permits valued at \$7,833,454 were issued for remodeling and expansion projects.

The City will see continued growth in new home construction in 2017. New development projects include: Canyon View Estates - single-family homes are now under construction. Dolan Creek Estates - following strong sales in Phase I, this development will begin Phase II in 2017. Sierra Vista Apartments unit #2 began construction in August of 2016.

With strong residential development activity, the City also anticipates growth in new retail business in 2017 and 2018.

The City grew by 107 acres in 2016 due to the voluntary annexation of several parcels including two campgrounds. Annexation is a viable form of growth for the City and in many cases, the properties are already receiving city services.