

*Our Mission: To provide an attractive, growing community being served by a professional staff that offers reliable, quality municipal services.*

## Continued strong housing market means rise in assessments

In South Dakota, property taxes are the primary source of funding for schools, counties, municipalities and other units of local government.

The property tax allows services for these entities to be funded in proportion to the present value of each individual property.

According to the state Department of Revenue, the first step is to establish the full and true value of all property within the boundaries of each unit of government. State statutes require property to be assessed at its market (or full and true) value. Market value is the amount the property would probably sell for if sold on the open market.

The county Department of Equalization has a team of assessors who must estimate the market value of every property in each taxing jurisdiction, no matter how big or small.

You can scan the QR code below to learn more about assessments.

To estimate the market value of any nonagricultural property, the assessor must first know what similar properties are selling for and what it would cost to replace it among other factors.

An assessment is the value of your property used to calculate your property taxes.

Assessment notices were sent out earlier this month and for some Sturgis residents their assessed value increased by 20% or more. The current assessment notice will be used to calculate the property taxes to be paid the following year.

Meade County Director of Equalization Rhea Crane said home prices within Meade County, which includes the city of Sturgis, continue to remain high. "The number of sales have slowed at this point, but their purchase prices

have not started to fall," she told the Sturgis City Council meeting as a board of adjustment recently.

For example, a home on Fulton Street in Sturgis that was assessed at \$272,609 in 2022 was assessed at \$350,000 in 2023 – a 28.6% increase. Sturgis City Council member Kevin Forrester asked Crane if home prices did start to fall, would the county do a reassessment to bring them back into line.

"Of course," Crane said. "One of the big questions that we had asked is what happens when this market does turn around and if it starts to go backwards. We will react accordingly."

The city of Sturgis has made a concerted effort to reduce its dependence on property tax. The city's mill levy in 2023 is the lowest it has been in 31 years.

### Meetings and Notices

**City Council Meetings** - April 3 and April 17. The meetings will begin at 6:30 PM. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1040 Harley-Davidson Way. **Agendas and other meeting information will be posted on the City website calendar on the Thursday prior to the meeting.** If you would like to have City Council agendas e-mailed to you, contact the Finance Office at 347-4422. Meetings are live-streamed on the City Facebook page.

The following are on the agenda for the April 4 Planning Commission meeting:  
Annual Review

- Paws on Main – 1547 Main St.
- Little Promises – 198 Old Stone Rd.
- Zoning Variance – 1412 Junction Ave.
- Set Back Variance – 316 Main St



### Officials

**Mayor**

Mark Carstensen

**Council Members**

**Ward One:**

Mike Bachand  
Angela Wilkerson

**Ward Two:**

Beka Zerst  
Tony Dargatz

**Ward Three:**

Aaron Jordan  
Preston Williams

**Ward Four:**

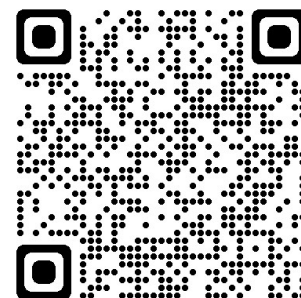
Kevin Forrester  
Dean Sigman

**City Manager**

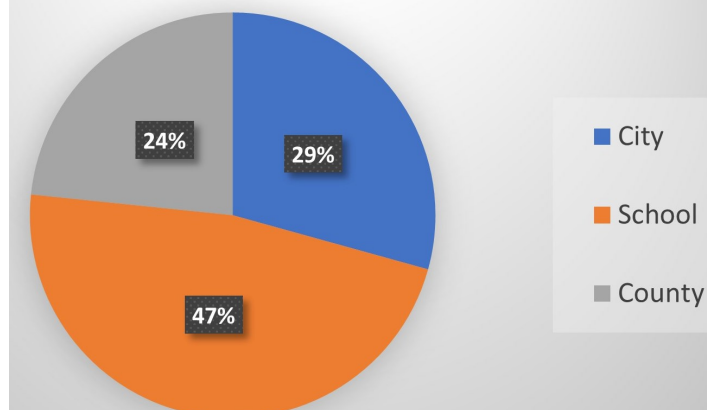
Daniel Ainslie

For contact information visit the city website at [www.sturgis-sd.gov](http://www.sturgis-sd.gov) or call City Hall at 605-347-4422

Scan Here  
for video



### Property Tax Breakdown



The 2022 taxes payable in 2023 on an owner-occupied home in Sturgis assessed at \$272,609 was \$3,969.34. That breaks down to \$1,878.64 for the Meade School District, \$1,163.19 to the city of Sturgis and \$927.51 to Meade County. Tax notices are mailed to property owners in January. The first half is due on or before April 30 and the second half is due on or before Oct. 31

## Councilor's Corner

"Spring is the time of plans and projects," says author Leo Tolstoy. I believe that perfectly describes what's happening here in our town. We have many positive things going on around Sturgis one of which is the 84th City of Sturgis Motorcycle Rally logo contest. We as a council recently asked for public submissions for next year's annual logo and we got some really good submissions. So be on the lookout for an online poll where we will be asking for people to help decide on the top three logos.

Another really exciting event is the "Crossroads: Change in Rural America" Museum on Main Street exhibition at the Sturgis Public Library. It will be on display now through April 29. It's presented by the Smithsonian Institute in cooperation with the South Dakota Humanities Council. It features great programs and speakers so I would ask everyone to please check out the calendar for it on the library social media pages or stop by the library to see what the schedule will be.

Spring is also a time of new beginnings and that certainly is what the city is embarking on as we near the departure date for our city manager Daniel Ainslie. He continues to captain the ship working very hard to ensure that the handoff when he leaves will go smoothly. We have a transition team in place that includes six senior-level city staff members whose decades of experience and leadership will keep our city moving forward. We have updated our council goals as we move forward. I want to say that I personally have the utmost confidence that this city and our team will continue to see positive productive work coming out of City Hall.



Councilor Beka Zerbst

## City gets nearly 100 submissions for 84<sup>th</sup> City of Sturgis Motorcycle Rally logo

The City of Sturgis put out a request for submissions of a logo for the 84th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. It received nearly 100 submissions.

Each year, the City of Sturgis uses a unique annual mark to highlight that year's 10-day event. The city sought artwork that used the existing city brand trademarks and incorporated stylized elements which would highlight the 84th Annual City of Sturgis

Motorcycle Rally. The city selected five logos on which the public can vote.

The final mark selected will be used in a variety of advertisements, digital media, news releases, sponsor points of sale, products and advertising and a variety of merchandise that will be sold online and in locations throughout the nation. Below are the logos. You can vote online at: [www.sturgis-sd.gov/rallylogocontest](http://www.sturgis-sd.gov/rallylogocontest)



## HELP WANTED

The City of Sturgis is currently taking applications for the following positions:  
 Full-time – Heavy Equipment Operator, Water Operator, Wastewater Treatment Facility Operator  
 PRN – EMT Basic, Paramedic  
 Summer Seasonal: Parks, Main Street Gardeners, Rally & Events  
 Temporary Rally: Overnight security  
 Visit the city website for more info: [Sturgis-sd.gov/jobs](http://Sturgis-sd.gov/jobs)

## Egg-A-Yard

The Sturgis Ambulance EMT Association is doing a fundraiser for Easter. They will egg your yard the night before Easter (Saturday, April 8) with plastic eggs filled with candy and toys. Available within a 10-mile radius of Sturgis.  
 COST: \$20 - 30 eggs, \$30 - 50 eggs, \$40 - 70 eggs  
 Email: [Shawnf@sturgisgov.com](mailto:Shawnf@sturgisgov.com) or [Hallis@sturgisambulance.net](mailto:Hallis@sturgisambulance.net)  
 Or: Stop by the Fire Hall at 1901 Ball Park Rd.

## Library Happenings

### Children & Teen

**Baby & Toddler Storytime (ages 0-3) Tuesdays @ 10am.** Bounce, play, and sing with your little one at storytime.

**PreK Storytime (ages 3-6) Wednesdays @ 11am.** All about learning and fun, storytime offers children in this age group a chance to meet new friends and foster a love for reading.

**Tiny Tot Social — Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> @ 10am.**

Tiny tots and their caregivers are welcome to join in on an hour of unstructured play & snacks!

**LEGOS - Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3-5 pm.**

All brick builders are welcome to join us for LEGO Monday, at the library.

**Wonder Math — STEAM Powered Fun! Tuesdays, April 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> @ 3:30pm.**

All ages welcome.

**MegaMonday (ages 6-11) Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm. Spring Flowers Dreamcatcher**

Join Miss Sierra for your own spring flower dreamcatcher. Popcorn always served!

**Teen Tuesday (ages 12-plus) Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm. Ice Cream Social**

Youth ages 12 and up are invited to relax, watch videos, and eat ice cream with Miss Sierra.

**Needs & Noodles (a life skills class) Wednesdays, April 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm.**

This class is suited for teens and young adults who want to eat noodles and learn the essentials of "adulting." **April topics:** Sew a Zombie; Shopping Online

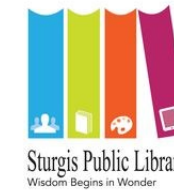
### Family & Adult

**MusicSpeaks Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 pm "Gerdan: Changes in Rural Ukraine" Concert & Discussion.** Has music in Ukraine evolved? These musicians create original arrangements of traditional Ukrainian folk melodies and rhythms that reflect their passion for blending the old with the new, in a style that is fresh, lively, and beautiful.

**Books on Tap Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m. at Sturgis VFW - Theme: One man's Trash... Another's Treasure.** Join us to discuss any book that might fit the theme, which is open to interpretation. All readers and non-readers, ages 21-plus, are welcome to join.

**History at High Noon "Crossroads: Change in Rural America – Sturgis Sale Barn" noon Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.**

Can't make it? You can watch our programs online at [www.youtube.com/@sturgispubliclibrary](http://www.youtube.com/@sturgispubliclibrary)



## Contact Information

City Hall 347-4422  
 Code Enforcement & Planning  
 7:00 - 6:00 Mon. - Fri.  
 1040 Harley-Davidson Way

Community Center 347-6513  
 5:00 - 8:00 Mon. - Fri.  
 8:00 - 5:00 Sat.  
 Noon - 5:00 Sun.  
 1401 Lazelle Street

Finance Office 347-4422  
 7:00 - 6:00 Mon. - Thur.  
 1040 Harley-Davidson Way

Fire & Ambulance 347-5801  
 Emergency 911  
 7:00 - 5:00 Mon. - Fri.  
 1901 Ballpark Road

Library 347-2624  
 8:00 - 7:00 Mon. - Thur.  
 8:00 - 5:00 Fri.  
 8:00 - 4:00 Sat.  
 1040 Harley-Davidson Way

Police Department 347-5070  
 Emergency 911  
 1400 Main Street  
 Animal Shelter 347-8310  
 1140 Otter Road

Public Works 347-3916  
 6:00 - 3:00 Mon. - Thur.  
 6:00 - 10:00 AM Fri.  
 1057 Dudley Street  
 Rubble Site 347-5605  
 8:00 - 4:45 Mon. - Sat.  
 20492 Avalanche Road

Rally & Events 720-0800  
 8:00 - 5:00 Mon. - Fri.  
 1040 Harley-Davidson Way

Sturgis Liquor 347-5983  
 9:00 - 7:00 Mon. - Sun.  
 1075 Lazelle Street

After Hours Emergency call  
 Police Dispatch 347-2573

[www.Sturgis-SD.gov](http://www.Sturgis-SD.gov)  
 Facebook: City of Sturgis, SD

Hours of operation are subject to change.

Sturgis City-wide  
 Garage Sale,  
 Saturday, April 29



Women's Softball League  
 Registration deadline April 30  
 Play ball Tuesday nights beginning May 9  
 Cost is \$500 per team  
 More info, Call Shelby at 605-347-6513  
 (Community Center)

Sturgis Community Cinema  
 April 1: "Honey I Shrunk the Kids"  
 April 15: "Encanto"  
 Show Times: 1 PM & 5 PM