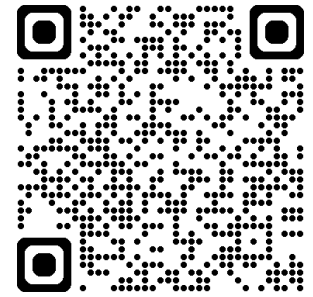


CITY OF STURGIS™ SOUTH DAKOTA



STURGIS INFORMATION PUBLICATION

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 3 MARCH 2025

STURGIS MUNICIPAL ELECTION SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 8

STURGIS - The Sturgis Municipal Election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, at the Sturgis Community Center. There is one opening in each of the four wards on the Sturgis City Council as well as the opening for mayor. The deadline for submitting petitions was Feb. 28. Those currently serving in the City Council positions are Alex Usera, Ward 1; Tony Dargatz, Ward 2; Mark Chaplin, Ward 3, and the Ward 4 seat that was vacated when Kevin Forrester became mayor. As of our print deadline, those who have filed petitions for the open seats include:
Ward 1: Alex Usera
Ward 2: Tony Dargatz
Ward 3: Mark Chaplin
Ward 4: Terry Jensen, Steve Shuck
Mayor: Kevin Forrester

Dave Murtha was still circulating petitions in Ward 3 and hoped to file by Feb. 28. The deadline to register to vote in this election is March 24. Registration may be completed during regular business hours at the county auditor's office, city finance office, secretary of state's office, and those locations which provide driver's licenses, SNAP, TANF, WIC, military recruitment, and assistance to the disabled as provided by the Department of Human Services. You can pick up an absentee ballot or vote at City Hall beginning on March 24. The City of Sturgis holds municipal elections two out of every three years. Once elected, city council and mayoral terms are for three years. Those elected will take the oath of office at the May 5 Sturgis City Council meeting.



CITY ADMINISTRATOR OUTLINES PLAN FOR BUDGET RECONCILIATION

STURGIS – The Sturgis City Administrator told the city council earlier this month that no one person is to blame for the city's financial challenges. "This was a team effort that got us here, and it will be a team effort that gets us out of this situation," Aaron Jordan said at the council meeting on Feb. 18. At this point, the city isn't certain of its financial picture because the city's finances haven't been reconciled for quite some time. "If you look at our 2023 legislative audit findings, and if you look at findings three, four, and five, those things all kind of deal with reconciliations," Jordan said. Significant turnover in the city in the past 18 months, including employing three financial directors in the last 12 months along with similar instability in the mayor's position have contributed to the current situation, Jordan said. Jordan lauded current Finance Officer Ann Bertolotto and her team who have worked to understand the issues, develop options, and have been working with Jordan to complete the backlog of financial processes while maintaining current operations. "What we need to do is make sure that everything that has hit the bank is hitting the accounting system, and of course, everything has to balance," Bertolotto said. "When you're that far behind, it's a chal-

lenge... But, you've gotta dig till you get it figured out." The City of Sturgis shared its 2024 Expenditures Report at the Sturgis City Council meeting Monday, Feb. 3, which provided some insight into the city's expenditures. Bertolotto said the Expenditures Report shows that the city finished 2024 using 84% of what had been budgeted for expenses. In 2024, the city budgeted \$11,329,036, but the report shows the city spent just \$9,505,810.55 – a savings of \$1,823,225.45. Speaking before the council on Monday, Sturgis resident Keith Ball asked what the numbers mean for the city. "The major deal last year was that we didn't know what the bottom line was with the budget, or sort of where our checkbook stood," Ball said. "Have we got to that stage yet and are we in trouble or not in trouble?" Jordan said the city is close to completing the expenditure side of the finances and is working through the revenue side of the ledger. "The challenge that we have right now is just how we do that," Jordan said. "The money's all in a cash account, we've confirmed that. We just gotta put it in the right bucket of where it needs to go. We're working through some challenges to complete that piece of it." Sturgis Mayor Kevin Forrester said

Financial Backlog Plan

Sturgis City Administrator Aaron Jordan provided the Sturgis City Council, at its meeting Feb. 18, with several options for dealing with the financial issues facing the city.

Option 1: (Compartmentalized Schedule) Block off time for some of the financial department personnel to dedicate focused time on completing 2023 and 2024 actions.

Option 2: (Modified Schedule) Execute a modified schedule for hourly personnel to complete one 8-hour day on the weekend to have dedicated and uninterrupted time to focus on backlog.

Option 3: (Overtime) Overtime for weekend work.

Option 4: (More Personnel) Additional personnel to assist with completing backlog tasks. Either from current staff, or bring past financial office personnel to assist with backlog.

Option 5: (Combo) Some combinations of Options 1-4.

Recommended Solution: Option 5, specifically the combination of Option 1 – 2, with possibility of using Option 3 (overtime) to complete backlog actions and stay on top of current financial operations.

following the meeting on Feb. 3 that just because the city spent \$1.8 million less than what was budgeted, it doesn't mean the city brought in that kind of revenue. "We can have all the budget we want, but if we didn't meet our cash objectives, we don't have the money to fund the budget," Forrester said. "We always hope our expenses are lower than we budget and our revenues are higher. But that hasn't been the case, especially in 2023." At its Oct. 7 meeting, the Sturgis City Council approved the contract to Casey Peterson and Associates, a Rapid City Certified Public Accounting firm, start up the process to get the city back on track

with its finances. Forrester said the firm was hired to complete the requirements of the city's 2023 Audit "findings." Among the findings was the revelation that monthly bank reconciliations were not being performed. Jordan said now as the city is trying to process its finances for 2025, the Finance Office is having to go back and complete financial processes for the previous year. Council member Ruth Kopp praised city staff for their diligent fiscal restraint in 2024 which resulted in the city underspending its 2024 budget. The budget information is available on the city's website at: www.sturgis-sd.gov/BudgetTransparency

CITY RAMPS UP PLANS FOR 85TH STURGIS MOTORCYCLE RALLY

STURGIS – As the City of Sturgis gears up for the 85th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, Aug. 1-10, extensive planning and



some modifications are underway to ensure a successful and safe event for both attendees and residents, said Sturgis City Administrator Aaron Jordan.

"As we move into March, we'll continue to dot the i's and cross the t's, working closely with the mayor and other key stakeholders to ensure everything is set for a successful Rally," Jordan said.

As part of the 2025 budget, the city's Rally & Events Department was reconfigured and duties traditionally done by that department have been shared with other departments.

"There's been less chatter about the Rally this year, which is why it's vital to get the word out that it's definitely happening," Jordan said. "Whether people are expecting it or not, they're going to come, and we need to be prepared."

City officials, including department heads and key stakeholders, have been reviewing and refining the Rally's event lineup.

Jordan said that city officials have revisited long-standing Rally activities to assess their impact and optimize resources. This year, the city has decided to streamline the number of events conducted during the Rally.

"We are refining our approach by focusing on a select few events that are either crucial due to sponsorship commitments or simply the right thing to do to ensure a quality experience," Jordan said. "We're incorporating key events like the opening ceremony, military appreciation, the Mayor's and Chief's rides."

The city acknowledges the challenges ahead in hosting a Rally successfully, Jordan said.

"I am confident in our ability to execute and maintain public safety successfully. We know what needs to be done and are prepared to address any issues that arise," Jordan said.



SISCOE AWARDED OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Sturgis American Legion Post 33 presented its Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award to Sgt. Dylan Siscoe of the Sturgis Police Department at the Vets Club in Sturgis on Tuesday, Feb. 11. This award is given annually to a well-rounded law enforcement officer who has exceeded the duty requirements expected of his or her position and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service coupled with professional achievement.



Supporting Sgt. Siscoe at the event were fellow officers Dylan Goetsch, Kurt Pickard, Teal Schmidt, Tucker Bedford, Levi Sauder, Danny Stacy, Siscoe, Halayna Prestjohn and Sturgis Police Chief Geody VanDewater.

LAST CHANCE FOR BRICKS

Looking for a way to commemorate special moments or honor loved ones in a permanent and meaningful way. Buy a brick! These commemorative bricks will be placed in areas of downtown Sturgis. The 4x8 bricks are \$105 and allow for 4 lines of text with a maximum of 20 characters per line. The 8x8 bricks are \$180 and allow for 7 lines of text with a maximum of 20 characters per line plus an optional image. THIS PROGRAM WILL END AT THE END OF MARCH. Go to sturgissuperstore.com to buy a brick.



Sturgis Public Library

Wisdom Begins in Wonder

- Sat. Mar. 1, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Genealogy Work Group. The Sturgis Public Library and the Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society will be hosting their monthly genealogy work group on Saturday, March 1 at 1 p.m. at the Sturgis Public Library. This month we will be learning to use FamilySearch, the world's largest free genealogy resource. Public is welcome!
- Mon. March 3, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. - LEGO Club. All ages are welcome to come together to build and explore with bricks at the Sturgis Public Library.
- Tues. March 4, 10 a.m. - Baby & Toddler Storytime. Come to the Sturgis Public Library for Baby & Toddler Storytime for ages 0-3. Rhymes, lapbounce, sensory play, and stories with Miss Cindy.
- Tues. March 4, 3:30 p.m. - Wonder Math. Join Richard Moeller at the Sturgis Public Library for science-based discoveries, activities, and more. All ages are welcome.
- Wed. March 5, 11 a.m. - PreK Storytime. Come to the Sturgis Public Library for PreK Storytime for ages 3-6. Celebrate literacy with movement, stories and crafts every Wednesday with Miss Sierra.
- Thurs. March 6, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Level UP! Gaming Club. Ages 8+ are welcome to hang out and play Nintendo, board games, snap circuits, and more with friends. Held every first Thursday each month.
- Mon., March 10, 4 p.m. Movie Night: Rango. A pet chameleon, Rango (Johnny Depp), becomes sheriff of a desert town and must face Old West-style villains. PG. Popcorn and refreshments will be served.
- Tues. March 11, 10 a.m. - Baby & Toddler Storytime. Come to the Sturgis Public Library for Baby & Toddler Storytime for ages 0-3. Rhymes, lapbounce, sensory play, and stories with Miss Cindy.
- Tues. March 11, 6 p.m. History Talks. This month join us as we celebrate South Dakota Women's History with Equality at the Ballot Box contributors Kelly Kirk and Kelly O'Dea.
- Wed. March 12, 11 a.m. - PreK Storytime. For ages 3-6. Celebrate literacy with movement, stories and crafts every Wednesday with Miss Sierra.
- Thurs. March 13, 3:30 p.m. - Code Critters. Kids ages 6-10 are invited to join Code Critters - coding for kids, at the Sturgis Public Library. Introducing young learners to the basics of programming through fun and interactive activities.
- Thurs. March 13, 5:30 p.m. - MusicSpeaks. "Thus Fate Knocks At the Door: Beethoven's 5th Symphony" It begins with the most famous 4 notes in classical music. Was Beethoven trying to tell us something? This month we'll explore the innovations of Beethoven and what his 5th symphony tells us about the challenges of life.
- Tues. March 18, 10 a.m. - Baby & Toddler Storytime. Come to the Sturgis Public Library for Baby & Toddler Storytime for ages 0-3. Rhymes, lapbounce, sensory play, and stories with Miss Cindy.
- Tues. March 18 - Wonder Math. Join Richard Moeller at the Sturgis Public Library for science-based discoveries, activities, and more. All ages are welcome.
- Wed. March 19, 11 a.m. - PreK Storytime. Come to the Sturgis Public Library for PreK Storytime for ages 3-6. Celebrate literacy with movement, stories and crafts every Wednesday with Miss Sierra.
- Sunday, March 23, 1 p.m. Dakota Daughters: Commemoration of the Anniversary of Wounded Knee 1890. Dakota Daughters will commemorate the 135th anniversary of the Dec. 29, 1890, Wounded Knee Massacre in 2025. They have made it a priority to tell this story throughout South Dakota by relaying historical information in an interesting, thought-provoking, entertaining, and memorable way. The Dakota Daughters hope when people see their play, they will realize that although we all are unique - such as skin color, cultures, beliefs - deep down we are not all that different. Doors will open at 1 p.m. to enjoy refreshments and women-owned vendors. The presentation will start at 2 p.m., there will be a Q & A session with the presenters, and door prizes from local women-owned businesses. A collaborative program with BHPFA, Sturgis Public Library, and South Dakota Humanities Council. This is a free public performance.
- Mon. March 24, 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. - Mega Monday. Join us at the Sturgis Public Library on for a S.T.E.A.M.-inspired activity: Leprechaun Traps! This program is designed for ages 6-10.
- Tues. March 25, 10 a.m. - Baby & Toddler Storytime. Come to the Sturgis Public Library for Baby & Toddler Storytime for ages 0-3. Rhymes, lapbounce, sensory play, and stories with Miss Cindy.
- Tues. March 25, 3:30 p.m. - Code Critters. Kids ages 6-10 are invited to join Code Critters - coding for kids, at the Sturgis Public Library. Introducing young learners to the basics of programming through fun and interactive activities.
- Wed. March 26, 11 a.m. - PreK Storytime. Come to the Sturgis Public Library for PreK Storytime for ages 3-6. Celebrate literacy with movement, stories and crafts every Wednesday with Miss Sierra.
- Thurs. March 27, 6 p.m. Books On Tap. The Sturgis Public Library will be hosting Books On Tap at the Loud American. Book Theme: "Nevertheless, She Read", pick a book about a resilient woman who shaped history, culture, and/or literature. Fact or Fiction! All readers 21+ are invited to join.
- Fri., March 28, 10 a.m. to Noon - Tiny Tot Social. Toddlers are welcome to join their friends at the Sturgis Public Library for snacks and unstructured playtime. Sensory bins, blocks, and books will be out for play.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 3 - Sturgis City Council, 6:30 p.m., Council Chambers, Sturgis City Hall, 1040 Harley-Davidson Way, Watch online at www.youtube.com/@piosturgis2839
- 4 - Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m., Council Chambers, Sturgis City Hall, 1040 Harley-Davidson Way
- 6 - Armchair Travelers Book Club, noon, Lushbough Room, Sturgis Public Library.
- 17 - Sturgis City Council, 6:30 p.m., Council Chambers, Sturgis City Hall, 1040 Harley-Davidson Way. Watch online at www.youtube.com/@piosturgis2839
- 21 - History at High Noon, noon, Sturgis Public Library Community Room
- 21 - Love INC Sturgis Hope & Love Banquet and dessert auction. 5 p.m. Sturgis Community Center. Find out more at <https://tinyurl.com/3y7bef8c>
- 23 - Sturgis Golden K Kiwanis Annual Spring Fundraiser, soup supper, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., \$10
- 24 - Sturgis Alliance of Churches Potato Feed, 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., by donation.
- 28 - G.O.A.T. (Getting Our Acts Together) Theater - 7 p.m. Sturgis Community Center Theater. Find out more at sturgisarts.org

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STURGIS CAMARO RALLY MOVING TO SPEARFISH

STURGIS - The Sturgis Camaro Rally is moving to Spearfish this June. During 2025 budget discussions in December, Mayor Kevin Forrester shared that there would be some strategic changes in the city's approach to the Sturgis Camaro Rally, namely, the city would move away from being the host. He said at that time that the Camaro Rally was providing diminishing returns, so the city was looking to revamp the management of the event. In 2024, there were 205 participants with 118 registered cars at the event. That was down from 274 participants and 151 registered cars in 2023.

"Our objective with these changes is to leverage our resources wisely, allowing us to continue delivering enhanced services our community and visitors expect," Forrester said. Within the last month, the Black Hills Camaro Club, based in Rapid City, announced that they would take over the event and were moving it to Spearfish in 2025.

In response to inquiries about the continued operation of the Sturgis Camaro Rally website, city officials explained that it will temporarily remain active to direct traffic to the new event location.

"We have set up a new website for the Camaro Rally, but right now most google searches for the Camaro Rally are going to the Sturgis website. In an attempt to get people to the new website, we are asking if you could please put a 'redirect' on your website. This will allow a seamless transition to our new website when people click on the old website," said Angie Black, Assistant General Manager of the Spearfish Holiday Inn & Convention Center. The Sturgis Camaro Rally began in 2010 at the



Since 2010, Sturgis has been home to the Sturgis Camaro Rally. This year the event is moving to Spearfish.

urguing of Sturgis resident Bernie Pettis. Soon, the Black Hills Camaro Club stepped in to help with planning the annual event. Organizers of the Sturgis Camaro Rally wanted to create a gathering to celebrate the car's heritage, performance, and community. The event was designed to bring together Camaro owners from all over the country, offering a variety of activities, including car shows,

drag racing, autocross, and scenic cruises through the Black Hills. The rally also features social events, vendor displays, and opportunities for attendees to connect with other Camaro enthusiasts.

In recent years, the Black Hills Camaro Club withdrew from hosting duties, a role that was subsequently taken up by the City of Sturgis.

STURGIS COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

STURGIS - Applications for plots in the Sturgis Community Gardens will be taken March 3-28 at the Sturgis Public Works Department, 1057 Dudley St., Sturgis. Those gardeners who had a spot the previous year will get preference for the same location. Any spots not assigned will be allocated in a lottery-style drawing in April. To apply, simply download the application form online. Fill out the registration page and sign the Garden Rules. Bring both forms to the Sturgis Public Works Department with payment. Cost is \$25 for some spots and \$5 for oth-

ers. You may also pick up an application and copy of the Garden Rules at the Sturgis Public Works Department, 1057 Dudley St., Sturgis. The City Park Garden is located west of the soccer fields between Tom's T's and the City Park on Blanche Street. The Ballpark Garden is located at 1061 Ballpark Road at the Arizona Street intersection. There will be a mandatory gardener meeting at the Sturgis Community Center in the theater from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

SCAN FOR CITY
GARDEN APPLICATION

