



Chamber Calling

January 2010

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Dear Chamber Members,

The Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors has undertaken some new goals for the current year. The most important goal we have unanimously adopted is making personal contact with every member of the Chamber.

We have decided to do this for several reasons:

- 1) Let you know the importance of your membership to the Chamber as a whole, no matter whether your organization has one employee or three hundred. Too often small companies sometimes feel they are not important, not here.
- 2) Seeking your input on needs you have that the Chamber can assist you, and perhaps other members, with in programming or services that we may or may not presently be offering.
- 3) Inform you of services your membership offers you that you may not be aware of.
- 4) Actively solicit your participation in Chamber events.
- 5) Make you feel more comfortable in networking with other Chamber members for the benefit of your company's products or services.

Our effort is sincere and serious in order to let every member, big or small, know that your involvement with the Chamber will enhance the Chamber and your company.

Sincerely,

DAVID F. LOCEY
Chamber President

"A group is only as good as its membership"



THANKS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO THOSE THAT SUPPORT LOCAL COMMERCE

3R Archives	Cottin's Hardware	Howe Military School	Midwest Tool & Cutlery Co.	Sportsarama
A & K Enterprises	Country Table Restaurant	IDRISS Company, The	Mill Race Storage	St. John's Episcopal Church
Aadvantage Builders, LLC	Curly's Auto Service	Industrial Piping & Maintenance	Miller's Super Valu #11389	St. Joseph Community Co-Op Inc.
AB's Gloves & Abrasives	Dairy Queen	International Paper, Inc.	Millett, J. Dental Office	SJC Commission on Aging
Abbott Nutrition	Dance Center Stage	Island Hills Golf Course	Millett, K. Dental Office	SJC EDC
ACM Plastic Products, Inc.	Dave Persons Remax Elite Group	Jack or Sugar Kirsch	Misfit Foods	St. Joseph County Grange Fair
Action Quick Print Plus	David Setterblad Concrete	James Ware Construction, Inc.	MMA	SJC Hispanic Council
Advantage Printing	DaVinci's Restaurant	Jay Hostetler	Morgan Olson	SJC Intermediate School District
Affordable Equipment	Davis & Davis Ins. & Real Estate	JAYWALKER	Mr. Rooter of S.W. Michigan	SJC MSU Extension Service
Allied Construction Services, Inc.	Dawn 2 Day	Jimi Jo's Ice Cream Shoppe	Muscle & Dermatherapy Center	SJC Sustainability Council
Amaria Family Practice	De Glass Station, Inc.	JM Equipment Inc.	NAPA Auto Parts	SJC Transportation Authority
America's Best Value Inn	DeBoard Chiropractic P.C.	John M. Smoll	New Dawn Senior Day Services	SJC United Way Fund
American Cancer Society	DeGraaf's	K & D Body Shop of Sturgis	Nissley Disposal, Inc.	Stan R. Mast Homebuilder
American Legion #73	Denny Sturgis Construction	Kendrick Stationers	Norman and Paulsen, PC	State Farm, Lyn Nash Agency
Amigo Centre	Designs By Vogt's Floral & Gifts	Kerchner Carpentry	Northwestern Mutual Financial	State Farm, Lynn Reed Agency
Amish Country Cheese Spread	Domestic & Sexual Abuse Svcs	KeyBank National Association	Nottawa Community School	Stoughton Estates Apartments
Aqua-Clear, Inc.	Done-Deal Realty, Inc	Kickstand Schwinn Cyclery	Nottawa Fruit Farm	Strand Theatre
Arbor House	Downtown Development Auth	Klinger Lake Country Club	O'Connor's Cabinets & Carpentry	Sturges-Young Auditorium
Arreola Translation Services	Doyle Community Center	Klinger Lake Storage Inc.	O'Sullivan Real Estate	SABEA
Ascend Computer Technology	Dresser, Dresser, Haas & Caywood	Kool's	Oak International, Inc.	Sturgis Auto Bath Inc.
Autobody USA-Sturgis	Dury Oil	Kroger Company	Oak Press Solutions Inc.	Sturgis Auto Wash, LLC
Automation Plus, Inc.	Edward Jones-Don Eaton	KS Auto Service	Oakleaf Financial	Sturgis Bank & Trust Company
Ayres Insurance Agency	Edward Jones-Kelly Bibb	L. J. 's Construction, LLC	Omni Credit Union	Sturgis Eagles # 1314
B & D Travel Consultants	Electrical Trends, Inc.	LaGrange County Chamber	Open Door Gallery	Sturgis Electric Motor
Bandholtz Paint Mfg. Co.	Employment Plus	Lake Country Health Alliance	Owens Products, Inc.	Sturgis Elks #1381
Barnell's Quality Carpet	Enterprise Rent-A Car	Lakeland Paper Corp.	Panache The Salon and Spa	Sturgis Fibromyalgia Support Group
Beck's Hallmark	eStudio Design, LLC	Larry Rosenberg	Parkview LaGrange Hospital	Sturgis Fire Department
Best Western	ExecuTec, Inc.	Lee Ross	Parma Tube Corporation	Sturgis Foundation
Bird, Svendsen, Brothers, Scheske & Pattison PC	Eye Care West P. C.	Leeann Plastics	Patrick Abstract & Title Office	Sturgis Game Room
Blue Ray Beach	F & S Electric LLC	Liberty West LLC	Pattie Bender	Sturgis Glass
Boals Salt & Water Resorces	Farmers State Bank	Limelight Photography	Paul's Tire Service	Sturgis Historical Society
Bob's Bait and Tackle	Fast Lane Oil Change	Little Caesars	Penguin Molding LLC	Sturgis Hospital
Bofa, Inc.	Fawn River Animal Clinic	Littman Insurance Agency	Pennzoni Display Co.	Sturgis Journal
Bogen Concrete	Fiebig Jewelers, Inc.	Locey CPA Office	Perfect Touch Cleaning Services	Sturgis Neighborhood Program
Boland Tire Company	Fiesta Mexicana	Logan Excavating, Inc.	Perry Personnel Plus, Inc.	Sturgis Plaza
Bontrager Surplus	First United Methodist Church	Lonespruce Farm Service, Inc.	Pine Hill Lawn & Landscape	Sturgis Police Department
Boundary Waters Cafe & Market	Fishsticks Creations	Longstreet Furniture	Pizza Hut	Sturgis Public Schools
Bowersox Floor Center	Foster Wood Specialities	Lowry's Books	PKG Liquidating, Inc.	Sturgis Tool & Die, Inc.
Brite & Clean Cleaning Service	Freeman Manufacturing Co.	LTI Printing, Inc.	PKG, LLC	Sturgis Towing & Recovery
Brothers Accounting, LLC	Frohriep Body Shop	Lucy-N-Ethel's	Postnet	Sturgis Toy Run
Brown Air LLC	G & K Gas Corporation	Lung's Concrete Finishing, Inc.	Potter's House Church	Sturgis Trophy House
Burr Oak Tool Inc.	G. Persing, Inc.	Lunger Heating & Cooling	Praxair	Sturgis Veterinary Hospital P. C.
Bush & Bush Attorneys	Gary Hansen	Magic Moments LLC	Precision Speed Equipment	Subway at Walmart
C & H Machine Company, Inc.	Gateway Ford, Inc.	Mancini Family Dentistry	Primary Mechanical	Sun & Shade Awning
C. A. Murphy Oil Co., Inc.	Gateway Home Inspections LLC	Mancino's Pizza Grinders	Prime Quality Electric, LLC	Sussex Vision Center
C. L. VanDeventer Agency	Gateway Shopper's Guide	Manowe Acres	Prompt Care Express, PC	Telemark
C.L.Fish-Locksmith	Gecko Security	Manpower	Protective Coating Assoc.	Terry's Outhouse Rental
Camburn's	Glen Oaks Community College	Maria's Restaurant	Prudential One Realty	The Party Place & Maplecrest Consignments
Canopeum Inc.	Glik's	Market Masters	Pure Energy Productions	The Write Connection
Carl's Catering	Grabe's Grain Farm	Marks Law Offices, LLC	Quail Run III Apartments	Therapeutic Touch
Cedar Lake Golf Course	Grace Christian Fellowship	Marty Hart Auto Sales	Quirin Farms, Ltd.	Three Rivers Chamber
Central Florist & Tuxedo	Grand Rental Station	Master Music Productions	Re/Max Elite Group	Thurston Woods Village
Central Manufacturing Services	Gray Brothers Stamping/Machine	Matrix Designs, LLC	Reb Hambright	Timberly Tree Farm
Central Meat Market	Great Lakes Chocolate	Mayer Tool & Engineering Inc.	Regency Inn	Tomlinson, David Atty.
Century 21 Fairway Real Estate	Great Lakes Pest Control Svc, Inc.	Mazzoni Building & Consulting	Reyna's Salon	Tomlinson, WB & Son Lumber
Century Bank & Trust	Green Valley Campgrounds	MBJ Investments	RGB Network Services, Inc.	Tractor Supply Co.
Charles H. Baber & Associates	Groff's Tents, Tables & Chairs	McCormick Trucking	River Country Tourism	Trillum Staffing Solutions
Charter Communications	H & R Block	McLaughlin & Company	Rob Sisson	Trio's Deli, LLC
Chupp Insurance Agency	Hackman Family Funeral Homes	McNew Agency	Robert E. Hair	TRISTATE SECURITY
Chupp's Concrete	Hagen Cement Products	Medical Insurance Services Inc.	Rotary Club	Tuffy Auto Service Center
Cintas Corp.	Hamilton Harley-Davidson	Metron Health Care Products	S.W.A.G Sign Company	U.S. Business Systems
Citizens Bank	Hampton Inn	Meyer's Automotive Service, Inc.	Salvation Army	V.F.W.
City of Sturgis	Headlines Hair Design & Spa	MiBiz Southwest	Seurync Dental Office	W. E. English Insurance Agency
Clark OB/Gyn Office	Hearing Aid Service	Michiana Corrugated Products	Shop 66	Wal-Mart Super Center #1771
Classic Manufacturing, Inc.	Hickman Home Imp. & Const.	Michiana Laminated Products	Sigrist Furniture Company	Walgreens Pharmacy
Colberg Medical Office	Holicki Eye Center, P.C.	Michiana Professional Credit	Silveus/Yunker-Newell Agency	Welborn Plumbing LLC.
Community Action Agency/SMI	Holiday Inn Express	Michiana Snax, Inc.	Smoll's Construction & Glass, Inc.	White Supply Co. Sturgis Division
Community Healing Center	Hollman Specialty Co.	Michiana Surgical Associates	Snappy Food Mart/BP Gas Station	Willer's Shoes, Inc.
Coney Island Pizza	Hollywood Nails	Michigan Tool Works	So Sweet Soft Goods	Willow Glen Pond B & B
Connie's Cleaning Service Inc.	Hometown Family Restaurant	Michigan Works!	Soil & Materials Engineers	Wireless Land
Corner Cafe	Hometown Heat & Plumbing	Midwest Fire Protection	SW MI Council Boy Scouts	WMSH/WTHD/ESPN/WLKI

Sturgis Home Health Care Named to 2009 HomeCare Elite as a Top Home Health Care Provider

Sturgis Home Health Care recently announced that it has been named to the 2009 HomeCare Elite., a compilation of the top performing home health agencies in the United States. This annual review identifies the top 25 percent of agencies and further highlights the top 100 and top 500 agencies overall. Winners are ranked by an analysis of performance measures in quality outcomes, quality improvement, and financial performance.

"The 2009 HomeCare Elite winners demonstrate a commitment to providing their patients with the best possible care while performing at the highest level," said Nancy Buller, Senior Director of Marketing Communications at OCS HomeCare. "We congratulate Sturgis Home Health Care on being one of the top home care agencies in the country." Sturgis Home Health Care Manager, Dawn Patrick, credits the staff's dedication to quality health care and customer service with the company's ability to rank as one of the HomeCare Elite. She said, "These positive outcomes have been achieved through teamwork and commitment to quality performance."

The 2009 HomeCare Elite is the only performance recognition of its kind in the home health industry.

About Sturgis Home Health Care: Sturgis Home Health Care provides dedicated professionals and services to meet patients and families individual needs. Whether patients have just been discharged from the hospital and require further medical assistance in their recovery, or they have special medical needs that do not require hospitalization, Home Health Care can help. Hand-in-hand with patients, physicians, and family members, Sturgis Home Health Care establishes a plan of care designed to meet the patient's medical needs and family's support needs within the comfort of their own homes. A Registered Nurse is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to answer questions or assist with medical problems. For more information visit www.sturgishospital.com or call Dawn Patrick at 269 651-2348.

CONGRATULATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL PAPER!



International Paper's Sturgis Converting & Distribution Center was recently awarded with a CET Gold Award from Michigan Occupational Safety & Health Administration for zero lost time accidents over a two year period. MIOSHA recognizes companies that achieve different levels of safety performance over various periods of time. The Sturgis facility has not had ANY type of industrial accident since April 25, 2006. Steve Knutson, General Manager of the Sturgis Facility, contributes this achievement to a highly engaged work force. Congratulations to Steve and all the employees at International Paper.

Truck Driving Training now offered by Glen Oaks Community College

Glen Oaks Community College, in cooperation with International Trucking School, Inc., will begin offering Truck Driver Certificate classes beginning with the Winter 2010 Semester. First classes for the 31 credit hour Truck Driver Certificate, including three 5-week driver training classes (one follows the other for 15 weeks total), will begin in January 2010.

Dr. Ana Gaillat, Dean of the College, said the new certificate provides students with commercial driver training in both theoretical and practical operation of vehicles on a driving range and local highway driving. Students will acquire knowledge on areas related and applicable to the trucking industry, including basic computer skills, small business entrepreneurship and health and wellness. Upon completion of the program, graduates will receive a Certificate of Completion from the College and be qualified for a Class A Commercial Drivers License (CDL-A).

In addition to the regular requirements for admission to Glen Oaks Community College, students applying for the Truck Driver Certificate program must be at least 18 years of age, have a valid driver's license, have an acceptable driving record to obtain a Training Instruction Permit (TIP) from the Secretary of State, complete and pass the Department of Transportation physical examination and drug screening, and meet the requirements of the Motor Carrier Federal Safety Regulations and Qualifications of Drivers.

The International Trucking School, Inc. has been in existence since 1990 and is fully licensed by the State of Michigan. ITS conducts training with several other Michigan community colleges, including Macomb Community College, Monroe County Community College and Schoolcraft Community College. Students in the new truck driver training program at Glen Oaks Community College may be funded, for those who qualify, by MichiganWorks! The training also meets military veteran education program and financial aid requirements.

Dr. Gaillat said the program can be completed in two semesters and many of the courses, with the exception of the ITS driver portion, may be completed online. "Emphasis is put on a business entrepreneur course because modern truckers are really small-business people. An introduction to computers and software is required because today's drivers must use computers in much of their work. An industrial communications course was added since reports and plans must be completed. A wellness/lifestyle class will help drivers who must make healthy decisions about exercise and food when spending so much of their time behind the wheel and on the road," said Dr. Gaillat. The 31 credit certificate counts toward completion of the Associate of Applied Science in Technology (AAST) degree, a 62 credit program.

Those interested in learning more about the program or beginning the enrollment process may contact Student Services at Glen Oaks Community College at (269) 294-4300, the local MichiganWorks! office or info@internationaltruckingschool.net.

THESE ARE THE MEMBERS THAT MAKE THIS POSSIBLE

www.sturgishospital.com

Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce

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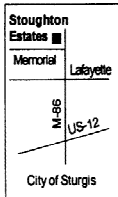
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January 2010



Relay for Life Kick-off Celebration

January 27th ~ 6pm
Central Commons

This year's Relay for Life will be June 11th-12th, noon-noon, at the Sturgis High School Track.

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				New Year's Eve Chamber Closed	New Year's Day Chamber Closed	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Exec. Board-11:45 BAH	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Board 11:45am	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27 Amb. Retreat Relay for Life Kick-Off	28	29	30

save the Date

Saturday, February 6, 2010

Kiwanis Parenting Fair ~ 8:30am-3pm
Sturgis Middle School

Keynote speaker: Patricia Polacco, renowned children's author, illustrator & story teller. Visit www.sturgisps.org for more info & registration form

Ambassador Retreat

January 27th
8am-12pm
At Setterblad's



January 12th from 5pm-7pm
Setterblad Concrete
27058 Oak Drive, Sturgis



The web-site www.michigan.gov/helpinghand is for citizen's in Michigan to go to for help with several different issues. This site helps people facing economic hardship find the services they need, for example, jobs & training, unemployment benefits, health care, family support and housing help.



Census Jobs Available...

Temporary, part-time jobs are currently available. Good pay, flexible hours and close to home. Tests currently being given at Sturgis Library on Wednesdays at 10am & 2pm. Bring your Social Security Card and Driver's

License with you. For more information, contact the local office in Battle Creek at 1525 W. Michigan Ave, Battle Creek, MI 49037 or call 269-425-3260. You can also visit their web-site at www.2010censusjobs.gov

ADVICE FROM THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU OF WEST MICHIGAN

Mail in Rebates Now Available in Paper or Plastic

Retailers and manufacturers are changing the way they issue rebates and the BBB advises that it's more important than ever to read the fine print when filing for a rebate. According to CreditCards.com, retailers and manufacturers are increasingly opting to provide rebates in the form of pre-loaded cards as opposed to paper checks. Unlike checks, which can be deposited in a bank and used to pay bills, to get the benefit, consumers must spend. These cards can often be used where credit cards are accepted. In most cases, the cards can be used at any merchant — much like a debit card — but some retailers are also handing out rebate cards that can only be used at their stores. The cards may also have expiration dates and added fees that could whittle down their value. The BBB offer the following advice on how to make the process of redeeming rebates as painless a possible: Don't wait; some rebates have a time window in which they can be redeemed. Read the instructions carefully; the guidelines for redeeming a rebate can be extensive and missing steps may delay the process or result in loss of the rebate. Keep the packaging; rebates often require UPC bar codes or other parts of the packaging to be included with the paperwork for processing. Make copies of everything; it's the only record you'll have of the transaction if anything goes missing. Contact the business if the rebate doesn't arrive; some retailers and manufacturers use third-party fulfillment companies for processing rebates so keep in mind that you might be dealing with a different business when it comes to tracking down your rebate. Help is available if you need it; if the rebate never arrives or is significantly late, file a complaint with the BBB, the Federal Trade Commission or your State Attorney General. For more advice on being a savvy consumer this holiday season, visit www.bbb.org.

MDOT and CRAM remind motorists: "Don't Crowd the Plow!"

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the County Road Association of Michigan (CRAM) announced a joint education effort aimed at urging motorists to remember good driving habits in winter weather conditions that will make the roadways safer. MDOT & CRAM will use the familiar safety slogan again this year, "Don't Crowd the Plow!"

"Road crews put their lives on the line every day to keep Michigan roads safer for everyone," said State Transportation Director, Kirk T. Steudle. "Motorists must remember to drive with caution no matter how much salt we use or how often the roads are plowed."

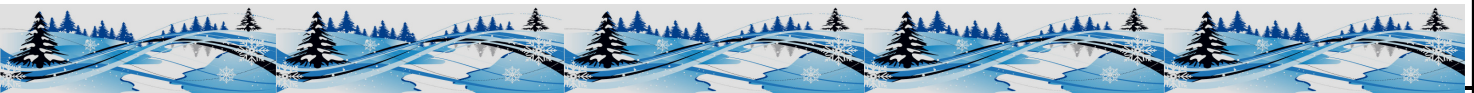
A steady decrease in road funding and an increase in costs have caused state and local agencies to alter their winter maintenance plans. Drivers have been put on notice that plowing priorities and the use of less salt will make their job more important than in past years. Road crews must have ample room in order to safely clear the many miles of roadway of snow and ice. "Motorists must do their best to minimize distractions and focus on driving and changes in road conditions," Joh Niemla, CRAM director, said. "Every year, despite the flashing lights, poor driver behavior near snowplows leads to collisions that can be deadly."

MDOT & CRAM offer the following reminders for motorists:

- Snowplows have limited visibility and drivers cannot see directly behind their trucks.
- Snowplows often throw up snow clouds, reducing visibility on all sides of the truck.
- Motorists should NEVER attempt to pass a moving snowplow on the right. With new, wing-plow technology, the blade can clear the shoulder and the lane of travel simultaneously. Motorists attempting an illegal pass through a snow cloud on the right and/or shoulder of the road most likely won't see the plow blade and run the risk of a serious crash.
- Always wear your safety belt and allow extra time to reach your destination this winter. Steudle added, "For the safety of everyone, motorists should use extreme caution when traveling in winter weather conditions. We can't emphasize this enough: Don't Crowd the Plow!"

Remember: ***In Ice and Snow, Take it Slow!***

For more safety tips, visit www.micountyroads.org/winter.htm



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