

The Stehly Report

Spring 2019 Newsletter

Sioux Falls City Council Update from Councilor Theresa Stehly

Elderly Tax Freeze Information

Guest Column

by Pam Nelson, Minnehaha County Treasurer



The Minnehaha County Treasurer's office has received the 2019 elderly /disabled property tax assessment freeze applications. They are available from January 1, 2019 until March 31.

This is an income based program. A single income household can earn \$28,279.43 and a combined income household can earn \$35,349.28. The property value cannot exceed \$194,115.32 and the property must be a single family household.

You must be 65 + years old or disabled. Call 367-4211 for info.

KELO Radio "Community Outreach" with Jon Michaels



Theresa Stehly (Left) congratulates Jon Michaels (right) on his award winning weekly radio show.

Jon Michaels' Forum radio program reached a new mile marker this month with "Week 2,250". Jon has recorded Forum for every Sunday since the mid 70's, making it the longest running program on Sioux Falls radio. Forum is a public affairs original local program of commu-

nity issues and interests as required by the FCC. Over the years Jon has been presented with the "Golden Apple" award from the SDEA, "Perfect Wings" award from CCHS, "Melvin Jones" award from the Lions Club, "Past Presidents" award from the Public Affairs Network and even Volunteer of the Year from DTSF. Jon's Facebook page has been credited with 110,000 likes and 9,000 loves.

Jon Michaels' Forum is heard Sunday mornings on KELO-AM and FM at 7:30, KWSN-AM at 8:00, Q-95-FM at 6:30, KTWB-FM and KRRO-FM at 5:30.

KEEP UP TO DATE!

Read The Stehly Report the first week of each month in the Sioux Falls Shopping News.



Follow me
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Dear Citizens,

During these cold, dark days of winter it is so important to be mindful of the warmth of friendship and blessings. Sharing love and caring with one another

helps to lift our spirits and lighten the load.

This has been a particularly challenging time for me, because of the death of my mother in November. After she suffered a severe stroke in September, I was blessed to have many moments of quality time with her before she died. Councilor Pat Starr also suffered a loss with the death of his beloved Father in January. These losses help put life- and priorities in perspective.

During this time of political division and strident

agendas, it is important to remember that we are all human beings, deserving to be respected and cared for.

As your nonpartisan City Council members, we are called to look past party affiliation, religious beliefs and financial standing to serve all of you in Sioux Falls.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with your concerns.

God Bless You,
Theresa Stehly
Sioux Falls City Councilor

Event Center Campus Study Group

Our mayor announced last fall that he was putting a task force together to study the Event Center campus. Over 100 people applied to be on this task force. I have the greatest respect for the members of our community that the mayor selected.

However, I do have concerns about the group meeting in closed sessions to the public. These are public funded entities. I also think that the public should be allowed to vote on several options for the renovation and revamping of the Area and the financing that

will be involved.

Community members selected are:

- Jeff Eckhoff (co-chair)—South Dakota Small Business Development Center
- Dan Statema (co-chair)—First Dakota National Bank and Loft Advisors
- Danny Amundson—KWB Hotel Partners
- Dr. Tamera Enalls—Transformation Consulting Agency
- Erik Gaikowski—AARP South Dakota
- Tom Hurlbert—CO-OP Architecture
- Andrea Miller—Journey

Construction

- Jared Nesje—TSP, Inc
- Tony Nour—First Premier Bank
- Erik Nyberg—Cutler Law Firm, LLP
- Ryan Pidde—Talon, LLC
- Laura Schoen Carbonneau—Prairie Family Business Association
- Orlen Tschetter—Retired

(Topics the group will evaluate include, but are not limited to, future use and function of the Arena, parking, additional onsite uses, and transportation connections to downtown and other attractions.)

Hot Topic: Street Vacation

The issue of closing a residential street is very serious. State law mandates a Super Majority vote to close a street. Closing a well traveled, residential street for the benefit of a private business makes it even more complicated and problematic.

For the record, I have been listening to residents' concerns and working to preserve the integrity of neighborhoods. We must balance protection for the neighborhoods with the plans of developers.

St. Francis House Expansion



Julie Becker (Center) explains expansion plans to Councilors Pat Starr (left) and Theresa Stehly (right).

Councilor Pat Starr and I met with Executive Director Julie Becker to learn about their exciting plans for expansion. The St. Francis House is dedicated to helping people get back on their feet and

thrive. This expansion effort is being done totally with private donations, without any financial assistance from the taxpayers. Call Julie at 605-334-3879 to donate or volunteer.

Councilors Raise Awareness for Homeless at Bishop Dudley House



Councilors Starr and Stehly participated in annual sleepover at the Bishop Dudley House last fall.

The Bishop Dudley house is one of our facilities in Sioux Falls that offers shelter to those without resources or a home. Last fall, Pat Starr and I spent the night with other community leaders, sleeping in the Bishop Dudley Parking Lot. The purpose of this annual event is to raise awareness of the plight of the homeless and to raise funds for the facility. It was an eye-opening experience.

WHAT IS THE SIOUX FALLS CVB?

Guest Column by Teri Schmidt, Executive Director CVB



The Sioux Falls CVB is the Sioux Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau... the organization charged with marketing and selling Sioux Falls as a destination city for conventions, meetings, tourism, and events of all kinds

The CVB is funded in 2 parts: (1) Visitors pay a 1% tax on all hotel rooms sold in the city (2) Visitors pay a \$2 per room per night BID (Business Improvement District) tax on each room sold from Sioux Falls hotels of 40+ hotel rooms. Sioux Falls hotels requested to tax themselves, the BID tax, in 2011 in order to provide the

CVB with additional funds allowing the CVB to be competitive in selling the city throughout the nation. These tax dollars are provided to the CVB for the sole purpose of marketing and selling Sioux Falls.

We are not a membership organization...no one pays dues to be a part of the CVB. The CVB welcomes partnering with everyone, especially those who are visitor-related. If you belong to a club or organization and would like to bring visitors to our community, the CVB can help you find meeting space, hotel rooms, provide name badges, city tours, media assistance, visitor guides and maps, and much more.

A Word About Our New Mayor

Our community had a spirited mayoral campaign last spring. Transparency, road repair, safety at the Falls, protecting public input, accountability in spending tax dollars and integrity in governing were some of the many topics discussed.

Since the election, people have been asking me how our new mayor Paul TenHaken is doing. Mr. TenHaken comes from a successful business background where decisions are made by the CEO, without the need for public input or scrutiny.

Of course, the government is a different animal.

The mayor and I have had discussions about the role of elected officials serving as independent representatives of the citizens. The Mayor is not the manager or supervisor of the City Council. We are separate legislative bodies, and we often work as a "checks and balance" mechanism for the benefit of the public. When we work together to do what is best for all the taxpayers of Sioux Falls, the people are truly blessed.

I have stated many times to Mayor Paul that my driving force is the belief that "it's the public's money, and the public's business and we need to err on the side of MORE information for citizens, not less."

I have encouraged Mayor TenHaken to take every opportunity to listen to the average citizen. He has now set aside two hours on the last Friday of each month to meet one-on-one with constituents. Call him at 367-8800 to set up a meeting.

QUESTION OF THE DAY:

JUST WHERE DO YOUR PROPERTY TAXES GO?

I asked Bob Litz, Minnehaha County Auditor, for an approximate breakdown of our Property Tax distribution:

School District: 68%
County: 18%
Municipality: 11%

In 2018 visitors to Sioux Falls created a \$404 million impact to our city. Let's work together to keep our economy strong! Contact the Sioux Falls CVB anytime at 605-275-6060 or email us at visit-siouxfalls.com. We're anxious to work with you!

SECRECY Issues in City Business

Guest Column by Janet Brekke, City Councilor/ former City attorney



The people of Sioux Falls have a right to have their public officials conduct the city's business in full view of the people. I liken it to being in a gold fish bowl. Official meetings of the Sioux Falls City Council are usually open to the general public. An official meeting is any meeting of a quorum of a public body at which official business of that public body is discussed or decided, or public policy is formulated.

There are very few exceptions to this general rule; they are usually declared to be "executive" or "closed" sessions. The City Council can go into executive session for the following reasons: 1) Personal issues relating to qualifications, competence,

performance, character or fitness of any public officer or employee. 2) To consult with legal counsel or review communications from legal counsel about proposed or pending litigation or contractual matters. 3) To discuss collective bargaining agreements with labor unions. In these sessions they can discuss strategy and preparations for labor contract negotiations and be updated on how the negotiations with the employees or employee representatives are proceeding.

City Officials may not disclose the confidential information they receive in executive session and may be subject to prosecution if they do. The City of Sioux Falls uses executive sessions sparingly and only for the reasons as allowed by state law.

Glory House Update

Guest Column by Dave Johnson, Executive Director Glory House



Greetings to all from the Glory House! This is an update on the first 24 Glory House Apartments. However, it is important to note that our agency is in the process of transitioning to more local and state funded clients. We look forward to the opportunity. Our focus and goal remains the same, "Helping people claim their lives with Christian compassion, resources and support."

In November we paid the City \$50,000 for part of the Ice Rink property. The city has torn down the Ice Rink, and we continue to fundraise for the \$202,000 that is needed to move the process forward. Glory House secured approximately half of this amount via donations. We are having weekly meetings with our partners and have the expectation that ground will be broken as soon as the weather will allow in the Spring.

Glory House still needs help financially as we move forward. Please go to our website and donate online, or, mail your tax deductible donation to: Glory House, PO Box 88145, Sioux Falls, SD 57109

Follow me on Facebook to get the latest on City Events.
www.facebook.com/theresa.stehly



Also read the *Argus Leader*, and *Southdacula.com* for information and editorial opinions.

Breaking through Partisan Politics

Guest Column by Representative Michael Saba



During my campaign I received tremendous bipartisan support. I was endorsed by the Democratic Party and ran as a Democrat yet received endorsements from key Republicans such as former U.S. Senator Larry Pressler of Humboldt, former South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture Walt Bones of Hartford,

former District 9 Senator Tom Dempster of Sioux Falls and former Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce President and Avera McKennan CEO Dr. Dave Kapaska of Sioux Falls

My campaign slogan was "Putting the Taxpayer First" and it is privilege and an honor to carry out these duties on the Appropriations Committee.

City Council meetings are the first 3 Tuesdays of each month at 7:00pm. Watch on Citylink (Midco channels 16 and 594; Vast channels 11 and 511) or online at siouxfalls.org.

You can attend the City Council meetings at the Carnegie Town Hall, 235 West 10th St., Sioux Falls.

INFORMATION IS POWER
Please pass this newsletter on to a friend or family member.

Keeping our Children Safe: Driver's Ed information

Guest Column

by Doug Basche, Director of DE at O'Gorman



Working with young drivers to improve their driving skills and to begin to comprehend the complexities of driving is an honor as a driver education instructor. South Dakota has some of the most lenient requirements necessary to acquiring a driver license. 77% of all traffic accidents are as a result of driver error, and traffic accidents are the number one cause of fatalities for drivers age 16-24. South Dakota allows young drivers the ability to drive unaccompanied by an adult at the age of 14 years and 6 months. This is the youngest age in the nation. Taking a driver education course is only one component of a complex situation. Having taught a driver education course at O'Gorman

High School since 1993, I feel that there are many benefits of such a course. Some of the units we discuss in class are the rules of the road, personal responsibility and defensive driving. Our course only gives a sound background in the fundamentals of safe driving. This will take years of experience.

Our state legislature needs to take a serious and comprehensive look at requirements for acquiring a driver license. As a parent and educator I sincerely hope that our children will continue to practice the skills, habits and judgments needed for a lifetime of safe driving. Our children are our most precious commodity and we must do everything in our power to protect and to guide them.

**In Sioux Falls,
We need
Government
Of the People,
By the People
and
For the People.**

Meet And Greet At Benson's And HyVee



Councilors Stehly(L) and Brekke (R) greet citizens.

Councilor Janet Brekke and I hosted a "meet and greet" with citizens at the Benson's Flea Market in February. It is always a pleasure

to meet with the residents and discuss the issues on their minds. We also hosted a get together at the HyVee on Marion Road.

Police Forced To Accept Contract



Union. A majority of union members voted down the offer made by the mayor's administration. The union asked for more time to negotiate, but were denied.

Councilor Starr and I voted against the forced contract, and stressed that we would like the police union and the mayor's administration to go "back to the table" to find a suitable compromise. Unfortunately, our other 6 city council members voted for the imposed contract. We need to find a better way to work through these contract negotiations in the future.

Our police force is a valued presence in our community. Many citizens put it as a "top priority" in city services. Now more than ever, it is becoming a dangerous occupation that keeps our public safe.

The City Council had no input into the recent contract negotiations with the Police

Insisting on Transparency

Guest Column by Councilor Pat Starr



I spent an evening this past week working with my 5th grade daughter and her vocabulary homework. It just happened that "transparent" was one of the words she needed to define. So timely considering the recent discussions the City Council has been having. As I explained to her transparency is vital to the success of a democracy. Citizens deserve and insist that their elected officials conduct the people's business in meetings open to the public. In

fact the South Dakota Legislature passed Open Meeting Statutes that require meetings to be open to the public. They also require that they have an opportunity to state their case to their representatives on issues of the day.

One of the tools that I use to determine if a meeting should be open to the public is a brochure created by the SD Municipal League. It states:

Task forces and committees that exercise "sovereign power" and are created by statute, ordinance, or proclamation are required to comply

with the open meetings law. SDCL 1-25-1.

Task forces, committees, and working groups that are not created by statute, ordinance, or proclamation, or are advisory only may not be subject to the open meetings law, but are encouraged to comply to the extent possible when public matters are discussed. Ultimately, if such advisory task forces, committees and working groups present any reports or recommendations to public bodies, the public bodies must wait until the next meeting (or later) before taking final action on the recommendations. SDCL 1-27-1.18.

It is so simple a 5th grader can understand it.

Protecting those most vulnerable:

Power of Attorney, Guardian and Conservator Law Scams

Guest Column by Bruce Danielson



We are told to plan for our futures so we can age the way we want to. However, your well planned future and retirement assets can look like a pot of gold to unscrupulous family members and business operators.

South Dakota laws require virtually no medical or other proof before someone can be appointed as a guardian or conservator over your affairs. Once appointed that person has virtually unlimited power to decide whether or not to get you the treatment you need. A temporary illness is all it takes and

once the guardian is appointed, it is difficult to disengage. We worked to defeat a proposal in the legislature last year that would give protection to the persons perpetrating this kind of abuse.

Fortunately the law did not pass and we don't want it revisited. We must demand our legislators stop these abuses. I suggest that the Social Security disability standards be used to set a reasonable standard before a guardian can get control.

To be part of the solution or if you have experienced the cruelties of this issue and want to share, contact me at: info@elderlawforum.org

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Update on County Jail Addition

Guest Column

by Mike Milstead, Minnehaha Co. Sheriff



The jail addition replaces the aging Community Corrections Center (former Elks Club), and adds additional inmate capacity to the single downtown facility. We will no longer be splitting staff and services between two buildings, and we will no longer be housing inmates in a non-secure facility. The expansion includes adding one additional floor to the existing jail, and constructing an attached addition that will include a new intake/release area, sally port-garage, combined programs area, courtroom, medical unit and master control room.

The new facility will bring the total capacity of the jail to 720, with expansion possible to 1000 beds. We will return to being a regional jail and once again start taking inmates from Lincoln County. This "state of the art" facility will provide a safer and more secure environment for our officers, the inmates and the public.

The total cost is about \$48 million dollars. The good news is, that because of the timing of the project, and the fact that we had other bonds maturing, you will need to pay just \$12 per year in additional property tax on each \$100,000 value of your home. That's a dollar a month. I think you are getting your money's worth.

CONTACT INFO FOR SIOUX FALLS CITY GOVERNMENT

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\$260 Million Waste Water Treatment Project Debate

Working to protect the Citizens, both physically and fiscally

The City Council recently voted to fund the largest expenditure in our city's history, a massive \$260 Million upgrade to our wastewater system. This is the backbone of our community. Everyone who visits our community, who lives in our community and who does business in Sioux Falls is a user of our waste water system.

This \$260 million project

is slated to be paid from the sewer portion of your water/sewer bill. The City is proposing annual rate increases to pay back this \$260 million loan. We need to be working to keep an affordable "quality of life" for all citizens. Those on fixed incomes will be hit the hardest. Adding excessive fees on the basic necessity of "toilet use" seems like a bad idea to me.

I would like to utilize the same funding source that we use for streets, - the second penny - to be a backup to ensure we keep rates affordable.

A portion of the second penny is currently being used to pay the \$9 Million Annual debt payment on the Sanford Premier Center. The Waste treatment system merits the same importance in funding, in my opinion.

Lake Lorraine Reaching Out to Community

Lake Lorraine, located off Interstate 29 between 26th and 41st streets, will host community events and activities throughout 2019. The development features retail, residential and restaurants around a pristine 30-acre lake. Developers are seeking community partners for events and activities like

Easter egg hunts, farmers markets, winter activities and water activities. The Lake Walk is open to the public with more enhancements coming in 2019. Stay tuned to Facebook and Instagram (@LakeLorraineSiouxFalls), visit LakeLorraineSiouxFalls.com or call 929.9319 for more information.

Neighborhood News

Oak View Neighborhood Update

By John F. Nordlie, Association President



The Oak View Neighborhood Association (OVNA) was formed two years ago by a group of neighbors concerned about the affects a large apartment complex would have on school safety, density, traffic congestion, and water drainage in the heart of our neighborhood. We organized to inform the neighbors, media and city council of our concerns over the shortfalls and negative impact of the proposed develop-

ment. Our efforts succeeded in positive changes to the plans by both the developer and city that address all of our concerns and highlight issues that affect our entire community.

This has helped neighbors realize the bond we have and take pride in our diversity. Anne Sullivan Elementary, Washington High School, The Children's Home Society, Kenny Anderson Park and Oak View Library form the core of our neighborhood. We work together to build a

better neighborhood with concern for each other, safety, history and what the future might bring. We have formed Neighborhood Watch, hosted block parties, and held our semi-annual Harvest Festival. Last year we organized a well-attended Mayoral Forum. Each year we honor an outstanding neighbor with our "Neighbor of the Year Award".

Other than December, we meet at 7pm every fourth Tuesday of the month at the Oak View Library. Every meeting brings lively discussion and we welcome all neighbors and visitors to join.

Pepper Ridge Neighborhood Update

By Randy Dobberpuhl, Association Member



The Pepper Ridge Neighborhood Association had a great time last year with their block party. We had a jump house for the children, a cook out and several visits from our local city authorities. The Sioux Falls Police, Fire Department, and Animal Rescue all came to interact with our residents. We also all gathered to watch a movie outside on a projection screen, eat some popcorn, and

gaze at the stars.

We provide yard decorating contests for the fall and winter holidays. Numerous homes join in on event! My family's personal favorite is Halloween.

We encourage all neighborhoods to try and set something up like this to help create friendships, watch out for crime, and to offer help to one another with projects, snow removal, or whatever else might come up.

SUNNY RADIO COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Owners John and Heidi Small are excited to have members of the community join them to discuss things that are happening in the community. Each morning from 6:30 to about 8:20 they have a very local focus and have discussions about local events and information. Many local guest interviews happen at 7:30am and 8:05am. They will now have Theresa Stehly and other members of the city council and county commission as guests on a regular basis to further inform Sioux Falls and promote the great things we have happening! Tune into Sunny Radio (AM1520 & 93.3FM, also steaming at SunnyRadio.com)

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Snow Gate Update

As the snow fall totals accumulate, I hope that the Snow Gates have been working successfully in your neighborhoods. Public Works Director Mark Cotter has reported that the City has ramped up with 37 snow gates for this winter. City Ordinance mandates that the City use these throughout our community. Remember that the Snow Gates will alleviate the

ridge of snow...not necessary eliminate it.

I am asking the City to mark each motor grader with a large identifying number so citizens can help the street department with feedback both to commend great service and identify areas where more training is needed. Let Mayor TenHaken know if you think this is a good idea at 367-8800.

Minnehaha County Historical Society Needs YOU!! HISTORY MATTERS

Come to the free History Talks on the third Thursday of months Sept. - May and special ones in the summer months when the opportunity arises. The Talks start with a social hour at 6:30pm and Talk at 7:00pm. The Talk is

usually about 45 minutes with Q & A after and often includes displays of various items of topic interest. They are held at the Old Courthouse Museum 200 W.6th St., Sioux Falls. For info call 605-951-9200

CITY INFORMATION

CITY SNOW ALERT NUMBER

The City of Sioux Falls has updated a new texting alert to warn residents when snow removal will be utilized in the City. Text "SNOW ALERT" to 888-777. (Carrier text fees may apply).

Individuals enrolled in the City's previous alert system will continue to receive snow alert text messages. (Call 367-8802 for more information)



EMERALD ASH BORER UPDATE

The City has marked the trees to be removed in the next year with a blue 9. Removal of the marked trees will begin in January 2019 and proceed through Memorial Day 2019.

Please call 211 if you have any questions concerning removal of Ash trees in your yard. The City is also working to create a fund that would help to pay for the cost of replacing the Ash trees in the Parking strip area.

NEED A STREETLIGHT?

Outdoor lighting deters crime and keeps neighborhoods safe!

Call public works at 367-8600

MOBILE SOLAR POWERED SPEED SIGNS

These signs are being used around town to calm traffic. Many school areas already have them installed.

If you have a concern about traffic danger in your neighborhood, send me an email: tstehly@siouxfalls.org and we can request that you can get one of these signs in your area. Public works has been purchasing new signs for our citizen's safety.

SNOW ON STOPLIGHTS

We had reports last month of stoplights covered with snow. Our new LED lights do not get warm enough to melt the snow. If you see this at an intersection, please call the street department at 367-8802.

All Saints Neighborhood Update

By Rachael Meyerink, Association Secretary

"The mission of the All Saints Neighborhood, located directly south of Downtown and North of McKennan Park, is "to foster a safe, happy and beautiful neighborhood." We host social gatherings, monthly meetings, neighborhood beautification projects, regular communication with residents, advocacy efforts and involvement in local government. Social gatherings include potlucks, pie socials, a large National Night Out gathering and Holiday party. Advocacy efforts are concentrated on safety,

walkability, and preventing the loss of residentially zoned land to commercial development. Beautification projects have included planting 100 boulevard trees in 2016, railroad clean-ups, and the painting of street murals and cross walks aimed improving pedestrian safety. Efforts of the All Saints Neighborhood Association have resulted in an enhanced sense of community pride and engagement and has become known as a place that a diverse group of citizens chooses to call home.

Disclaimer: This newsletter reflects the opinions and views of Theresa Stehly and guest columnists and does not reflect the opinions of Sioux Falls city government. All costs associated with this newsletter have been paid for privately by Theresa Stehly and not from campaign donations.