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NEWS RELEASE: Sturgis Good Deeds Provides Assistance to Elderly and High-Risk Residents.

STURGIS, SD - As efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 become more urgent, the City of Sturgis has now formulated a program to help those who are considered to be the most at risk in our community.

The Good Deeds initiative will assist high-risk residents who are age 60+ and/or those with chronic medical conditions by providing grocery shopping and home delivery services. According to Sturgis City Manager Daniel Ainslie, by providing this service, we hope these high-risk residents will feel that they can stay at home in a safe environment and will not be forced to go out in the public to get their groceries and other daily necessities. The free shopping and delivery services will be provided by City staff as well as community organizations who are willing to serve as volunteers. This service will be available starting Thursday, March 19.

How to use this service:

1. Call the Sturgis Library at 347-2624 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM Monday - Friday or 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM on Saturday.
2. City staff will help you place your order. Items may include groceries, toiletries, cleaning supplies and other household necessities. Books and audio video resources from the Library can also be included.
3. A volunteer or staff member will fill your order (if items are available) at a local store and will deliver the order free of charge to your residence. The participant will need to pay for the items with cash or check when the delivery is made. There is a \$50.00 limit on grocery orders, however, participants can order as many times during the week as needed.

If you or a family member needs to have a prescription filled, County Drug will provide free delivery within the Sturgis City limits. For those living outside the city, mail order delivery is available. Call 347-2466 for more information.

If you or your service group are interested in volunteering to assist with this program, please contact Tammy Even at 605-347-4422 ext. 207.

In addition to implementation of the Good Deeds program, the City will be enacting the following protocols:

- * Maintaining closure of the Sturgis Library, Community Center, and Auditorium
- * Offering online utility billing and payment via the XpressBill Pay program
- * Maintaining the utility bill drop-box at the Community Center
- * Opening an additional bill drop-box at the front door to City Hall starting Monday, March 23
- * Offering on-line and drive-up library services
- * Require all contractor permits and licenses be obtained online through CitizenServe
- * Provide the ability for citizens to call-in questions and comments during public meetings
- * Provide live streaming service on Facebook during City Council meetings
- * Encourage residents to call with questions instead of walking into City facilities. To ensure this guideline is being met, we now ask the public to call in advance to make an appointment when required to conduct business face to face.
- * Beginning the week of March 23, City Hall will be closed on Fridays to further limit the risk of exposure.

The City of Sturgis continues to monitor information from the CDC, the State Department of Health, and local healthcare providers. As responsible adults, we all need to take action to reduce the risk of infection within our area.

The CDC maintains the following recommendations for reducing the risk of infection:

- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
 - It is especially important to clean hands after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.
- Do not leave your house if you are sick.
- Monitor your health. Call your health care provider if you feel ill.
- Practice social distancing. Social distancing means staying out of crowded places, avoiding group gatherings, and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible.

The CDC also recommends that older adults and people of any age with serious chronic medical conditions consider postponing nonessential travel.

For all City-related news and information about the programs listed above, please visit the City of Sturgis website at www.sturgis-sd.gov and the City Facebook pages. If you would like to speak with someone about the protocols listed above, please call City Hall at the number listed.

By working together and helping one another, we will ensure the best future possible for our families and our community.

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