



February 2025 CARDINAL Pride

Electric and Water Rate Changes

At the January 13, 2025 meeting the South Sioux City Council passed resolutions setting the rates for electricity and water. The new rates will be effective February 1, 2025.

Electric rates are going up an average of 2%. The last increase was in 2016 and was followed by two decreases in rates in 2018 and 2019. The new rates are still **less** than the 2016 rates.

Water rates will increase for the average user of 5,000 gallons per month will see an increase of \$3.46 per month. A low user that uses 2,500 gallons per month will see a change from \$21.56 to \$24.56. A high residential user of 10,000 gallons per month will see a change of \$4.35. The last time water rates changed was 2021.

ON THE **INSIDE**

- **Child Care Refundable Tax Credit**
- **Winter Sidewalks**
- **Dating Violence**
- **Preventing Lung Cancer by testing you house for Radon**
- **Recycle tips**

City offices will be closed on
Monday February 17th in
observance of Presidents



February 2025 Meetings

City Hall Council Chambers– 1615 1st Avenue;

City Council Meeting*:	10th & 24th at 5:00 p.m.
Community Development Agency:	11th & 25th at 11:00 a.m.
Finance Committee*:	5th, 12th, 19th & 26th at Noon
Public Works Committee*:	3rd & 17th at 5:00p.m.
Design Commission:	6th & 20th at 8:30 a.m.
Planning & Zoning Commission:	12th & 26th at 4:00 p.m.

Parks & Recreation Office – 1021 E 6th Street
Parks & Recreation Board: 3rd at 5:15 p.m.

South Sioux City Library – 2121 Dakota Avenue
Library Board: 5th at 5:30 p.m.

*Meetings are Broadcast Live on Cable One Channel 57
Sparklight Channel 3 and live video streamed on city
website www.southsiouxcity.org

Child Care Refundable Tax Credit

Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 77-7201 to 77-7205 Child Care Tax Credit Act (Act)

Parents or legal guardians of children 5 years old or younger may apply to DOR to receive a refundable tax credit if their total household income is \$150,000 or less. To qualify, the child must be age 5 years or younger as of December 31 of the calendar year (i.e., under age 6) for which the tax credit is being requested and must be claimed by the parent or legal guardian as a dependent for federal income tax purposes. Example: Your child turned 6 on December 30, 2024, and is claimed as a dependent on your return. You cannot use the child to claim the child care refundable tax credit for 2024 because the child was not under age 6 at the end of 2024.

The parent or legal guardian is eligible for the refundable tax credit:

- If the child is enrolled in a child care program licensed pursuant to the Child Care Licensing Act; or
- If the child receives care from an approved license-exempt provider enrolled in the child care subsidy program pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 68-1202 and 68-1206; or
- If the parent's or legal guardian's total household income is less than or equal to 100% of the federal poverty level.

The credit will equal:

- \$2,000 per child, if the total household income is no more than \$75,000; or
 - \$1,000 per child, if the total household income is more than \$75,000 but no more than \$150,000.
- If the total household income is more than \$150,000, the parent or legal guardian is not eligible for the child care refundable tax credit.

Sidewalks

To ensure the safety of all South Sioux City pedestrians it is required that:

All sidewalks within the business district be cleaned within 5 hours after the cessation of a storm, unless the storm, or fall of snow, has taken place during the night; in which case the sidewalk shall be cleaned before 8:30 a.m. the next morning.

Sidewalks within the residential areas MUST be cleaned within 12 hours after the cessation of any storm. If a property owner fails to keep their sidewalks clean, the city will notify the property owner or post a sign on the property ordering the work done immediately and failure to comply with this order will constitute a misdemeanor. The city will then clean the sidewalk and the total expenses will be charged against the property as a special assessment for improvement or may be recovered by civil suit brought by the city against the owner or occupant of the property.

DATING VIOLENCE

February is designated as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Dating violence may first emerge with name calling and teasing. However, this can lead to more serious violence of physical assaults and rape. 1 in 3 teens in the U.S. are victims of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner.

DATING VIOLENCE is a pattern of behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses, physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner.

PHYSICAL ABUSE- includes shoving, punching, slapping, pinching, kicking, hair pulling, strangulation, use of a weapon, and any other acts causing physical harm.

SEXUAL ABUSE- includes verbal sexual abuse, unwanted sexual touching and kissing, intimidation to force the victim to engage in any kind of sexual activity, and rape.

VERBAL/EMOTIONAL ABUSE- includes name-calling, threats, screaming, yelling, put-downs, ridiculing, criticizing, emotional blackmailing, and stalking.

Reporting dating violence among teens is a concern because of many factors. Some of the factors include, fear of any one believing them, fear of reporting crimes which happened when they were acting against their parents' wishes, and fear of retaliation or intimidation by the perpetrator or other teens. According to the National Center for Victims of Crime, both parents and teens seem to blame the victim by asking questions such as, "Why did you wear that outfit? Why were you drinking? Why did you go to that place?"

Some warning signs of abuse in dating relationships are:

Checking your cell phone or email without your permission.

Calling or texting you constantly to see who you are with, where you are at, or what you are doing.

Jealousy or insecurity.

Explosive temper.

Having to be with you ALL the time.

Isolating you from family and friends.

Erratic mood swings.

Threatening to hurt you, someone in your family, or himself or herself if you don't do what he or she wants.

Telling you what to do.

Most teens begin dating without having the knowledge of what constitutes a healthy relationship or what healthy boundaries are in a relationship. Teen dating violence programs can provide education to address these problems.

Prevention/Education programs- held before violence has occurred; seek to reduce teen violence, promote healthy relationships, and teach conflict resolution, critical thinking, and communication.

Counseling/Intervention programs- held after violence has occurred; seek to offer support to teen victims, helps change behavior and understanding of violence, and their capacity to solve problems without abusing others. These programs include group and individual counseling for the victims, perpetrators, or both.

To learn more about teen dating violence several websites can be accessed:

www.ncvc.org

www.loveisrespect.org

www.breakthecycle.org

**NATIONAL DATING ABUSE HOTLINE: 24 hours a day at 1-866-331-9474 or
TEXT at loveis to 22522.**

Article submitted by Dakota County Victim Assistance Program (DCVAP) can be reached at 402.494.7550, dcvap@southsiouxcity.org, Facebook page at Dakota County Victim Assistance Program, or located at City/County Law Enforcement Center, 701 West 29th St., South Sioux City, NE 68776.

Prevent Lung Cancer by Testing Your Home for Radon

WASHINGTON — In January, the EPA recognizes National Radon Action Month and encourages Americans to test their homes for radon. Radon is an odorless, colorless, naturally occurring radioactive gas that, when left unaddressed, can build up inside a home. Over time, exposure to radon can cause lung cancer. The only way to know if your home has high levels of radon is to test for it.

“Radon is a serious public health risk that can be reduced using simple, proven techniques,” **said Acting Director of EPA’s Indoor Environments Division, Sharon White.** “During this year’s National Radon Action Month, we urge everyone to take the first but vital step of testing their home. This year’s theme of ‘Test Your Nest: Test, Fix, Save a Life,’ emphasizes that identifying and reducing radon exposure can decrease lung cancer risk and save lives. Together we can protect our families and communities from this invisible threat.”

[Testing for radon](#) is easy and inexpensive. Affordable do-it-yourself radon test kits are available for purchase online and at most home improvement and hardware stores. Some states and municipalities even provide at-home radon test kits for free. You can also hire a qualified radon professional to test your home. [Contact your state or Tribal radon program](#) to learn more about radon services in your area.

Millions of homes in the United States have elevated levels of radon. Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers and is responsible for about [21,000 lung cancer deaths every year](#), but many people don’t know about radon or the risks it can pose to their health.

If you haven’t tested your home for radon, National Radon Action Month is the perfect time to take this step to protect yourself and your loved ones. Tens of millions of homes have already been tested, and millions of homes with high radon levels have been fixed.

The EPA recommends taking action to fix your home if you discover radon levels above 4 picocuries per liter. If your home does have elevated levels of radon, a qualified professional can install a system to lower your indoor radon levels. For more guidance on how to address radon risks, see [EPA’s radon website](#).

Test. Fix. Save a life.

[Find a radon test kit.](#)

Read [frequent questions about radon](#).

For further information: EPA Press Office (press@epa.gov)

Helping others! Being Neighborly!

Please consider helping your elderly or disabled neighbors by bringing in their empty garbage cans!

This will help with the safety on the streets and the safety for residents susceptible to falling.

This tip brought to you by
South Sioux City Public Works



Plastic Bags facts! Please recycle!

50 percent of the plastic we use, we use just once and throw away.

Enough plastic is thrown away each year to [circle the earth four times](#).

[We currently recover only five percent](#) of the plastics we produce.

Tying the bag in a **knot** will help keep it from going **airborne!**

Please remember to use your **reusable bags!**

These tips brought to you by
South Sioux City Public Works



Did you remember your
REUSABLE BAG?

MARCH

SOUTH SIOUX CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADULT EVENT CALENDAR



2025



2121 DAKOTA AVE. 402-494-7545

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ALL ADULT PROGRAMS ARE 16+ UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED PLEASE REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS ON OUR WEBSITE.						1
2	3 THE TEA ON IT: 5PM-8PM	4 TANGLED YARNS - 6PM 	5 NE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR - 10AM-2PM VOICES OF NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN: "IRON EYES CHILDREN" - 6PM	6	7 GOODWILL OF THE GREAT PLAINS JOB ASSISTANCE - 1:30PM	8
9 COVER TO COVER 3:30PM-4:30PM THE TEA ON IT: 5PM-8PM	10	11 TANGLED YARNS - 6PM 3-D SPRINGTIME - 11AM	12 NOODLES & DOODLES - 6PM	13 DIGGING INTO YOUR IRISH HERITAGE - 6PM	14	15
16 THE TEA ON IT: 5PM-8PM	17	18 TANGLED YARNS - 6PM 	19	20	21	22 INGLES SIN ESTRÉS - 2PM A 4PM
23 COVER TO COVER 3:30PM-4:30PM THE TEA ON IT: 5PM-8PM	24	25 TANGLED YARNS - 6PM 	26 ENCUENTROS Y CUENTOS: BILINGUAL BOOK CLUB - 5:30PM	27	28	29
30 THE TEA ON IT 5PM-8PM	31					



<<SCAN TO VIEW THE SSCPL EVENT CALENDAR ONLINE



[HTTPS://LIBRARIES.NE.GOV/SOUTHSIOUXCITYPUBLICLIBRARY@SOUTHSIOUXCITY.ORG](https://libraries.ne.gov/southsiouxcitypubliclibrary@southsiouxcity.org)

MARCH

CHILDREN'S EVENT CALENDAR

ALL PROGRAMS ARE 30 MINUTES UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Marching into March 						1 Seusapalooza 10-4
2	3 Money Smart Kids 3:00 PM Lets Craft 4:30pm	4 Toddler Time 10:00am TEEN TIME 5:30PM	5 TWEEN & TEEN ANIME CLUB 3:45PM	6 DUNGEONS & DONNA 4:00PM	7 Story Time 11:00am Tween Time 3:45 pm	8 Youth Book Club 10:00 AM
9	10 Money Smart Kids 3:00 PM Lets Craft 4:30pm	11 Toddler Time 10:00am TEEN TIME 5:30PM	12 TWEEN & TEEN ANIME CLUB 3:45PM	13 COLOR AND MUSIC 5:00-7:30	14 Story Time 11:00am Tween Time 3:45 pm	15 BINGO 2:00
16	17 Money Smart Kids 3:00 PM Lets Craft 4:30pm	18 Toddler Time 10:00am TEEN TIME 5:30PM	19 TWEEN & TEEN ANIME CLUB 3:45PM	20 DUNGEONS & DONNA 4:00PM	21 Story Time 11:00am Tween Time 3:45 pm	22 Science Saturday 10:00
23 	24 Money Smart Kids 3:00 PM Lets Craft 4:30pm	25 Toddler Time 10:00am TEEN TIME 5:30PM	26 TWEEN & TEEN ANIME CLUB 3:45PM	27 FREE FAMILY MOVIE 5:00PM	28 Story Time 11:00am Tween Time 3:45 pm	29 Game On All Day
30	31 Money Smart Kids 3:00 PM Lets Craft 4:30pm					

PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SCAN TO VIEW THE SSCPL EVENT CALENDAR ONLINE>>

ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAMS? EMAIL DONNA AT DHABINCK@SOUTHSIOUXCITY.ORG OR CALL (402) 494-7545





SSC NEWSLETTER

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS CORNER

by Dr. Rony Ortega



Dear SSC Community,

Thank you to everyone who participated in our five Community Engagement Workshops and school tours this school year. We averaged around 130 participants per meeting and it was a pleasure to meet so many of you and hear your valuable input and ideas for addressing the challenges of our aging and crowded facilities. Your continued engagement is vital as we consider next steps—stay tuned for additional updates in the coming weeks and months. In the meantime, continue to check out CardinalVision.org for additional information or to review the materials and presentations that were shared at all past workshops.

I also want to extend a heartfelt congratulations to Bill Garvey Sr. on his well-deserved induction into the Cardinal Educational Foundation (CEF) of Fame. Bill's contributions to our schools and community are truly inspiring, and we are grateful for all he has done and continues to do!

Finally, a quick dining recommendation! I've enjoyed some delicious meals at Malli's and Tacos Don Cheque here in town. If you haven't tried them yet, I highly recommend the hand-made tortillas at both locations—they're fantastic!

Thank you again for your continued support of our schools and community!

Go Cardinals!

Dr. Rony Ortega, Superintendent
South Sioux City Community School



estimada comunidad de SSC,

Gracias a todos los que participaron en nuestros cinco talleres de participación comunitaria y visitas a las escuelas este año escolar. Tuvi-
mos un promedio de 130 participantes por reunión y fue un placer conocer a tantos de ustedes y escuchar sus valiosos aportes e ideas
para abordar los desafíos de nuestras instalaciones envejecidas y sobrepobladas. Su participación continua es vital a medida que consid-
eramos los próximos pasos; permanezca atento a las actualizaciones adicionales en las próximas semanas y meses. Mientras tanto, con-
tinúe consultando CardinalVision.org para obtener información adicional o para revisar los materiales y presentaciones que se compar-
tieron en todos los talleres anteriores.

También quiero extender una sincera felicitación a Bill Garvey Sr. por su merecida inducción al Salón de la Fama de la Fundación
Educativa Cardenal. Las contribuciones de Bill a nuestras escuelas y comunidad son realmente inspiradoras, ¡y estamos agradecidos por
todo lo que ha hecho y continúa haciendo!

Finalmente, ¡una rápida recomendación para cenar! He disfrutado de algunas comidas deliciosas en Malli's y Tacos Don Cheke aquí en
la ciudad. Si aún no los han probado, les recomiendo las tortillas hechas a mano en ambos lugares: ¡son fantásticas!

¡Gracias nuevamente por su continuo apoyo a nuestras escuelas y comunidad!

¡Vamos Cardenales!

Dr. Rony Ortega, Superintendente
Distrito Escolar de South Sioux City

South Sioux City Community Schools

www.scccardinals.org

