



June 2025

# CARDINAL Pride

**South Sioux City Chamber Ambassadors  
&  
City of South Sioux City employees participate in the  
Adopt a Street Clean Up project.**



ON THE **INSIDE**

- **Nebraska Forest Service**
- **Elder Abuse**
- **South Sioux City Adopt a Street**
- **Notice of Weeds**
- **Human Trafficking**



## JUNE PUBLIC MEETINGS

City Hall Council Chambers– 1615 1st Avenue

|                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| City Council Meeting*:        | 9th & 23rd at 5:00 p.m.        |
| Community Development Agency: | 10th & 24th at 11:00a.m.       |
| Finance Committee*:           | 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th at Noon |
| Public Works Committee*:      | 2nd & 16th at 5:00p.m.         |
| Design Commission:            | 5th & 19th at 8:30 a.m.        |
| Planning & Zoning Commission: | 11th & 25th at 4:00 p.m.       |

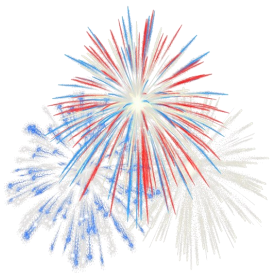
Parks & Recreation Office – 1021 E 6<sup>th</sup> Street

Parks & Recreation Board: 2nd at 5:15 p.m.

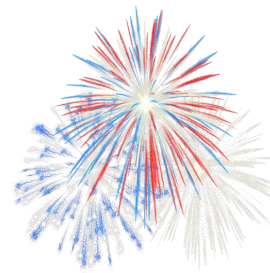
South Sioux City Library – 2121 Dakota Avenue

Library Board: 4th 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](http://www.southsiouxcity.org)



**CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON**  
**FRIDAY, JULY 4TH**  
**HAVE A SAFE HOLIDAY**



Please be advised that Ordinance 2022-08  
is now in effect within the city limits and reads as follows:  
**\$42-157 FIREWORKS; DISCHARGE RELATED.**

***It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge, explode,  
or use any permissible fireworks within the City of South Sioux City  
except from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on July 2nd, 3rd, and 4th,  
and from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. on December 31st.***

- Make sure that this year's 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration is a safe one by following CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission) guidelines.
- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and that they could pose a danger to consumers.
- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities. Parents don't realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees - hot enough to melt some metals.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.

## Rural Community Forestry



A **community forest** includes all trees and vegetation in and around a community — from street trees and parks to backyards and schoolyards. These living systems are essential infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, providing **natural protection from wind, heat, dust, and flooding**. In addition to their environmental benefits, trees significantly influence the daily lives of Nebraskans. **They provide shade that draws shoppers, fosters community, enhances health, and serves as the backdrop for local festivals.**

Through its **Community Forestry Program**, the Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) provides direct financial, technical, and educational support to rural communities and green industry professionals. By promoting tree planting and long-term care, **the program strengthens community pride, environmental health, public safety, and local economies across Nebraska.**

**Local Tree Boards**, made up of dedicated citizen volunteers, play a vital role in advancing local community forestry efforts. **NFS partners closely with these local leaders**, turning community vision into real, lasting outcomes.

A strong example of this partnership is in the **City of Ogallala**, population 4,878. NFS assisted the city with conducting a tree inventory — part of a statewide effort that has cataloged over **71,000 community trees** since 2022. Local tree board members learned to collect, interpret, and use inventory data to make strategic community forestry decisions.

**The community learned their 2,000 public trees provided \$4.25/person in environmental benefits annually.** In addition, the city has lost ~15% tree canopy in the last five years due to aging trees. As a direct result, the local tree board and city got to work:

- Developed and adopted an **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) response plan**.
- **Secured funding** and hosted community-wide tree planting.
- Watered all the new trees!
- **Updated local tree ordinances** to reflect best practices
- Achieved the **Tree City USA Growth Award**
- Created a **rebate program for citizen tree planting**
- **Identified At-Risk trees**
- Secured **Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) funding** for a program to remove and replace hazardous trees

This collaboration exemplifies how **targeted support, smart investment, and local engagement** can strengthen and create more resilient rural communities—now and for generations to come.

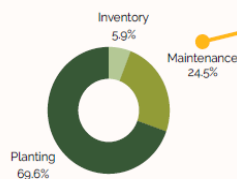
## Supporting Rural Communities

### 2019-2024 PASS-THROUGH FUNDING

|        | TOTAL STATE & FEDERAL<br>PASS-THROUGH FUNDING | FUNDING<br>PER CAPITA OF<br>COMMUNITIES<br>RECEIVING GRANTS | # OF GRANTS |
|--------|---|---|-------------|
| RURAL* | \$1,778,985                                   | \$3.75  | 387         |
| URBAN  | \$1,461,851                                   | \$1.63  | 50          |
| TOTAL  | \$3,240,836                                   | \$5.38  | 437         |

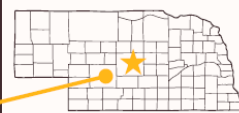
\*less than 50,000 population

Thanks to USDA USFS funding, leveraged by competitive state grants, NFS has passed through over \$3.2 million to communities over the last six years. **For every dollar spent per person in urban communities, \$2.30 per person is spent in rural communities.** 88% of grants go to rural communities.



Community forestry projects help local communities meet their goals by increasing tree canopy and improving tree maintenance, while supporting local green industry such as tree nurseries, arborists, contractors, and businesses.

### Trees Give Hope & Pride



**Arnold, Nebraska**, is a village of 591 residents in the heart of the sandhills and serves area producers. Its remote location makes it challenging to access tree care services. **The presence of dead trees posed safety hazards and gave a poor impression of the community.** With UCF funding, Arnold successfully removed dead trees and replanted new ones, significantly improving neighborhood aesthetics. Residents noted, **"It's incredible how much our neighborhoods improved."** The funding covered nine trees, but local citizens removed an additional fourteen. This initiative has boosted community awareness about the importance of trees, prompting more requests for tree care from residents.

## 2024 Rural Community Impact Snapshot

**173**

Rural Nebraska  
communities assisted

**\$1.1 million**

in tree planting funds distributed to rural  
communities

**69**

Workshops/  
trainings/events held  
in rural communities

**491**

technical assists in  
rural communities

✉ trees@unl.edu

🌐 facebook.com/nebraskaforests

📍 PO Box 830815, Lincoln, NE 68583

📞 402-472-2944



# Elder Abuse

Each year many people are abused, neglected, and exploited. One type that is very problematic and goes unseen is elder abuse. This type of abuse typically happens with persons, male or female, who are 65+ and older. These individuals can be frail, weak, or mentally incompetent to take care of themselves. According to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, abuse is about power and control, people with disabilities may face unique challenges and barriers to accessing support. An abuser can be anyone however the vast majority of abusers 90% are family members who are most often adult children, spouses, or partners. Elder abuse can also include abuse in retirement homes, hospitals, and/or hired caregivers.

Elder abuse includes, but is not limited to, physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, exploitation, emotional abuse, abandonment, and self-neglect. Please be alert and attentive as the suffering is often in silence. In most cases elder abuse goes unreported because the elderly may be reluctant to report their own children or in most cases they fear retaliation. According to Elder Abuse and Neglect, many of the signs and symptoms of elder abuse do overlap with symptoms of mental deterioration, but that doesn't mean you should dismiss them on the caregiver's say-so. Please be on the lookout for signs of elder abuse.

Bruises, pressure marks, broken bones, abrasions, and burns may be an indication of physical abuse, neglect, or mistreatment.

Unexplained withdrawal from normal activities, a sudden change in alertness, and unusual depression may be indicators of emotional abuse.

Bruises around the breasts or genital area can occur from sexual abuse.

Sudden changes in financial situations may be the result of exploitation.

Bedsore, unattended medical needs, poor hygiene, and unusual weight loss are indicators of possible neglect.

Behavior such as belittling, threats and other use of power and control by spouses are indicators of verbal or emotional abuse.

Strained or tense relationships, frequent arguments between the caregiver and elderly person are also signs.

If you suspect or know someone who is suffering from elder abuse, please contact your local law enforcement or adult protective services. Adult protective services can be reached at 1-888-493-9929 or locally at 402-241-0032. This is a serious crime that needs more awareness. The elderly may not have the power or voice to speak up, but you can for them.

For more information please visit the following site:

<http://www.thehotline.org/is-this-abuse/domestic-violence-disabilities/>

<https://www.helpguide.org/articles/abuse/elder-abuse-and-neglect.htm>

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

## Help keep our city clean



Help control the litter in our beautiful City. The City of South City is reviving an old program, **Adopt a Street**.

We are looking for organizations or individuals to **Adopt a Street** here in South Sioux City. A Street Sign will be placed in the area, *acknowledging* those who are helping out! If you want to **Adopt a Street** the program works like this. **Adopt a Street** will entail keeping the street and the parking area clean of litter. Any street that you are wanting, but it should be a minimum of 6 blocks and minimum cleaning of twice a year with a minimum two year commitment.

Additionally the City *will supply* orange bags for litter pickup. Once the orange bags are full you can bring them to the Public Works Office at 125 E. 26<sup>th</sup>. The City has the waiver forms for those wanting to adopt a street.

This is a great community service program for organizations, families, and business that want to keep the first impression spotless for South Sioux City!

We look forward to hearing from you and having you sign up. Please call us at the public works office if you are willing to be a part of the **Adopt a Street** Program. Call 402-494-8166. We hope to hear from you!

If a family or business would like to clean an area only one time the Public Works Office will supply the bags and Plastic Gloves.



## ✓ USE SUNSCREEN

SPF 30 or higher, 20 minutes before sun exposure. Reapply every 2 hours.



## ✓ HYDRATE BEFORE, DURING & AFTER TRAINING

Start hydrating at least 1hr before activities. Drink water or sports drink every 20mins during training, then hydrate again after.



## ✓ COLD PACK/TOWEL

Use cold packs or wet towels to stay cool.



## ✓ SEEK SHADE

Take shelter under an umbrella, tree or another shady spot when not on the field.



**NOTICE**  
**PROPERTY OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS OF**  
**SOUTH SIOUX CITY**

8" Weeds, Grasses or Worthless Vegetation Removal and Litter Nuisance  
Ordinance No. 2013-17

City ordinance 2013-17 states in part "The owner or occupant of any lot or piece of ground shall keep the lot or piece of ground and the adjoining street and alleys free of any growth of eight (8") inches or more in height of weeds, grasses or worthless vegetation or to litter or cause litter to be deposited or remain thereon". In the event a property owner or occupant fails to abate the nuisance, the City shall have such work done and all costs associated with the nuisance abatement shall be the responsibility of the property owner.

**Human Trafficking: The Hidden Crime**

Are you or someone you know being trafficked?  
Is human trafficking happening in our community?  
Is the situation you may have encountered human trafficking?

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery where traffickers profit from the control and exploitation of others through the use of force, fraud, and coercion. Human trafficking is present in all 50 states in cities, suburbs, and rural areas.

There are two forms of human trafficking: Sex trafficking and Labor trafficking. Sex trafficking involves individuals who perform commercial sex acts while labor trafficking involves labor services both of which victims are providing against their will. Trafficking victims are lured by their traffickers with false promises of a high paying job, education, loving relationship, or stability. Victims share one trait of vulnerability however anyone can become a victim of human trafficking.

Victims can come from diverse backgrounds both ethnic and socio-economic, different levels of education, men or women, adults or children, young or old, immigrants, or refugees. Certain populations are more vulnerable than others and these include runaway and homeless youth, victims of trauma and abuse, refugees, and immigrants. Some victims may be hidden behind locked doors in factories and brothels while other victims are in plain view within the community.

Traffickers manipulate, exploit, and prey on the vulnerabilities of individuals who have an unstable home life, lack employment, or have a history of abuse and trauma. Once they trap their victims they use physical and psychological violence to control them. Traffickers use many forms of control such as, confiscating the victims' money and identification, move them frequently from place to place, and do not allow victims' to speak with family or friends. Traffickers and victims tend to share the same national, ethnic, or cultural background which gives traffickers a better understanding to exploit their victims.

The following is a list of potential **RED** flags of trafficking. This list is not all inclusive and represents only a selection of potential indicators:

- Is in the commercial sex industry and has a pimp/manager.
- Works excessively long and/or unusual hours.
- Is not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes.
- Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement.
- Lacks medical care and/or is denied medical services by employer.
- Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating).
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or of what city he/she is in.
- Have numerous inconsistencies in his/her story.
- Have few or no personal possessions.

Contact local law enforcement or 911 if you or someone you know is in immediate danger OR

National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 OR

If you need help send a text to: BeFree (233733).

More information on human trafficking can be accessed at:

[www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org)

[www.traffickingresourcecenter.org](http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org)

Dakota County Victim Assistance Program can be reached at 402.494.7550, [dcvap@southsiouxcity.org](mailto:dcvap@southsiouxcity.org), Facebook @ Dakota County Victim Assistance Program, located in the City/County Law Enforcement Center, 701 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, South Sioux City, NE 68776.



# JUNE

## SOUTH SIOUX CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

### ADULT EVENT CALENDAR



# 2025



2121 DAKOTA AVE. 402-494-7545

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY                            | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY                               | SATURDAY  |
|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1<br>CIPHERS - 2PM<br>THE TEA ON IT: 5PM-8PM                 | 2<br>TANGLED YARNS - 6PM   | 3<br>NE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR - 10AM-2PM  | 4<br>LEVEL UP YOUR COMMUNITY - 12PM  | 5<br>GOODWILL OF THE GREAT PLAINS JOB ASSISTANCE - 10:30AM | 6<br>LEVEL UP YOUR COMMUNITY - 12PM  | 7<br>LEVEL UP YOUR COMMUNITY - 12PM                           |
| 8<br>COVER TO COVER 3:30PM-4:30PM<br>THE TEA ON IT: 5PM-8PM  | 9<br>TANGLED YARNS - 6PM   | 10<br>LEVEL UP YOUR LANGUAGES 5PM<br>HO CHUCK TRICKSTER - 6:30PM                | 11<br>DRAG QUEEN PAINT SCENE - 6PM   | 12<br>LEVEL UP YOUR COMMUNITY - 12PM                       | 13<br>LEVEL UP YOUR COMMUNITY - 12PM | 14<br>LEVEL UP YOUR COMMUNITY - 12PM                          |
| 15<br>THE TEA ON IT: 5PM-8PM                                 | 16<br>TANGLED YARNS - 6PM  | 17<br>BLACK HISTORY BINGO - 6PM<br>CALL ME A SURVIVOR WITH MICHAEL CARNES - 6PM | 18<br>LEVEL UP YOUR COMMUNITY - 12PM | 19<br>LEVEL UP YOUR COMMUNITY - 12PM                       | 20<br>LEVEL UP YOUR COMMUNITY - 12PM | 21<br>LEVEL UP YOUR COMMUNITY - 12PM                          |
| 22<br>COVER TO COVER 3:30PM-4:30PM<br>THE TEA ON IT: 5PM-8PM | 23<br>TANGLED YARNS - 6PM  | 24<br>ENCUENTROS Y CUENTOS: BILINGUAL BOOK CLUB - 5:30PM                        | 25<br>LEVEL UP YOUR COMMUNITY - 12PM | 26<br>LEVEL UP YOUR COMMUNITY - 12PM                       | 27<br>LEVEL UP YOUR COMMUNITY - 12PM | 28<br>PRIDE FILM: THE DEATH & LIFE OF MARSHA P. JOHNSON - 2PM |
| 29<br>THE TEA ON IT: 5PM-8PM                                 | 30<br>ALL ADULT PROGRAMS ARE 16+ UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED<br>PLEASE REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS ON OUR WEBSITE. |   |                                      |  |                                      |   |



<<SCAN TO VIEW THE SSCPL EVENT CALENDAR ONLINE



PUBLICLIBRARY@SOUTHSIOUXCITY.ORG  
HTTPS://LIBRARIES.NE.GOV/SOUTHSIOUXCITY

# JUNE

## CHILDREN'S EVENT CALENDAR

ALL PROGRAMS ARE 30 MINUTES UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE.

| SUNDAY                                       | MONDAY   | TUESDAY                              | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY                                       | FRIDAY                        | SATURDAY                      |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1<br>Summer Reading Kickoff 2:00pm-4:00pm    | 2<br>TODDLER TIME 10:00am<br>TEEN TIME 5:30PM  | 3<br>TWEEN & TEEN ANIME CLUB 3:45PM  | 4<br>LEVEL UP! 2:00PM<br>DUNGEONS & DONNA 4:00PM  | 5<br>Story Time 11:00am<br>Tween Time 3:45 pm  | 6<br>Youth Book Club 10:00am  | 7<br>Youth Book Club 10:00am  |
| 8<br>Story Time 2:00pm<br>Lets Craft 4:30pm  | 9<br>TODDLER TIME 10:00am<br>TEEN TIME 5:30PM  | 10<br>TWEEN & TEEN ANIME CLUB 3:45PM | 11<br>LEVEL UP! 2:00PM                            | 12<br>Story Time 11:00am<br>Tween Time 3:45 pm | 13<br>Youth Book Club 10:00am | 14<br>Youth Book Club 10:00am |
| 15<br>Story Time 2:00pm<br>Lets Craft 4:30pm | 16<br>TODDLER TIME 10:00am<br>TEEN TIME 5:30PM | 17<br>TWEEN & TEEN ANIME CLUB 3:45PM | 18<br>LEVEL UP! 2:00PM<br>DUNGEONS & DONNA 4:00PM | 19<br>Story Time 11:00am<br>Tween Time 3:45 pm | 20<br>Youth Book Club 10:00am | 21<br>Youth Book Club 10:00am |
| 22<br>Story Time 2:00pm<br>Lets Craft 4:30pm | 23<br>TODDLER TIME 10:00am<br>TEEN TIME 5:30PM | 24<br>TWEEN & TEEN ANIME CLUB 3:45PM | 25<br>LEVEL UP! 2:00PM<br>DRIVE-IN MOVIE 5:00PM   | 26<br>Story Time 11:00am<br>Tween Time 3:45 pm | 27<br>Youth Book Club 10:00am | 28<br>Game Day All Day        |
| 29<br>Story Time 2:00pm<br>Lets Craft 4:30pm | 30<br>-  | -                                    | -   | -  | -                             | -                             |

\*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 Community,

As the 2024-25 school year comes to a close, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our students, families, staff, and community for an incredible year filled with accomplishments and progress. Together, we've achieved so much—most notably, improvements in student attendance, behavior, and academic achievement across the district. These successes reflect the hard work and dedication of our entire school community.

One of the highlights of our year was the continued momentum around our district strategic plan priority of *Engaging Community*. *This focus was evident in the strong partnerships, events, and involvement that brought us closer together and helped support our students' success.*

On Sunday, May 18, we proudly graduated the Class of 2025. This outstanding group of seniors earned over **\$1 million** in scholarships to support their postsecondary education goals! This is a true testament to their perseverance and promise.

We have many reasons to be proud of our students and staff here in South Sioux City. Looking ahead, we are pleased to offer optional summer school programming for elementary, middle, and high school students to keep learning strong and prepare for continued success in the fall.

Wishing everyone a safe, relaxing, and well-deserved summer break!

Go Cards!

Dr. Rony Ortega, Superintendent  
South Sioux City Community School



**Estimada comunidad,**

Al finalizar el año escolar 2024-25, quiero expresar mi más sincero agradecimiento a nuestros estudiantes, familias, personal y comunidad por un año increíble lleno de logros y progreso. Juntos, hemos logrado muchísimo, en particular, mejoras en la asistencia, el comportamiento y el rendimiento académico de los estudiantes en todo el distrito. Estos éxitos reflejan el arduo trabajo y la dedicación de toda nuestra comunidad escolar.

Uno de los aspectos más destacados de nuestro año fue el continuo impulso en torno a la prioridad de nuestro plan estratégico distrital: la Participación Comunitaria. Este enfoque se evidenció en las sólidas alianzas, eventos y participación que nos unieron y contribuyeron al éxito de nuestros estudiantes.

El domingo 18 de mayo, graduamos con orgullo a la Generación 2025. ¡Este destacado grupo de estudiantes de último año obtuvo más de **un millón** de dólares en becas para apoyar sus objetivos de educación superior! Esto es un verdadero testimonio de su perseverancia y promesa.

Tenemos muchas razones para estar orgullosos de nuestros estudiantes y personal aquí en South Sioux City. De cara al futuro, nos complace ofrecer un programa opcional de escuela de verano para estudiantes de primaria, secundaria y preparatoria, para que mantengan un sólido aprendizaje y se preparen para un éxito continuo en el otoño. ¡Les deseamos a todos unas vacaciones de verano seguras, relajantes y bien merecidas!

¡Vamos Cardenales!

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

South Sioux City Community Schools

[www.scccardinals.org](http://www.scccardinals.org)

