



**March 2026**

# CARDINAL *Pride*



FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
 Sarah Scott, Property Tax Administrator  
 Property Assessment Division  
 402-471-5962

## Tax Year 2026 Homestead Exemption

FEB 2, 2026 (LINCOLN, NEB.) - The Nebraska Department of Revenue, Property Assessment Division (Department) reminds property owners that the [Nebraska Homestead Exemption Application, Form 458](#), must be filed with their county assessor between **February 2, 2026 and June 30, 2026**.

The homestead exemption provides relief from property taxes by exempting all or a portion of the taxable value of the residence. The State of Nebraska reimburses counties and other governmental subdivisions for the property taxes lost due to homestead exemptions.

In Nebraska, a homestead exemption is available to the following groups of persons:

- Persons age 65 or older before January 1, 2026;
- Qualified disabled individuals; or
- Qualified disabled veterans and their surviving spouses.

Some categories are subject to household income and residence valuation limitations. The income limitations are on a sliding scale based on filing status and homestead exemption category.

Homestead exemption forms and information are available at

<https://revenue.nebraska.gov/PAD/homestead-exemption>.

For more information on the homestead exemption program, please contact your county assessor's office, or the Department at 888-475-5101.

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## **MARCH 2026 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 11:00 a.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)

# If you receive a suspicious call:



- **Hang up**
- **Don't** believe them
- **Don't** trust your caller ID
- **Don't** give them money
- **Don't** give them personal information
- Report the scam at **[oig.ssa.gov](https://oig.ssa.gov)**



## SSA.GOV/SCAM

Social Security Administration | Publication No. 85-024 | June 2023 | Produced at U.S. taxpayer expense

### Child Care Refundable Tax Credit Application Required Information

[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 Department of Revenue 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, 2025, and is claimed as a dependent on your return. You cannot use the child to claim the child care refundable tax credit for 2025 because the child was not under age 6 at the end of 2025.

The parent or legal guardian who is claiming the child for federal income tax purposes is eligible for the refundable tax credit if they are a resident of Nebraska and:

- 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 Nebraska Department of Revenue can be reached at :  
402.471.5729 or  
800.742.7474 NE and IA**

## **Before the Sirens: Understanding Modern Fuels and How to Protect Yourself and Your Home from Fire**

In today's fire service, the furnishings and materials found inside a home are commonly referred to as **modern fuels**. This term describes the widespread use of **synthetic, petroleum-based materials** that now make up much of what we live with every day.

Modern fuels include items such as foam cushions and mattresses, plastic furniture, electronics, appliances, synthetic carpets, drapes, and clothing, as well as laminates, engineered wood products, and lightweight construction components. These materials are present in nearly every home and have significantly changed how fires behave.

Understanding modern fuels is critical because they **burn faster and release heat at an extremely rapid rate**. Fires involving modern fuels can progress from ignition to flashover conditions in as little as **three to five minutes—or even faster**. As a result, occupants have a much smaller window of time to escape safely.

Additionally, fires involving these materials produce **dense, highly toxic smoke**, which can quickly incapacitate individuals before flames ever reach them. Because of these realities, the **South Sioux City Fire Department** would like to remind residents of several important steps they can take to improve their safety at home.

As **Daylight Saving Time approaches on March 8, 2026**, now is an ideal time to ensure that your home is properly protected with working smoke detectors. Smoke detectors should be installed in **every bedroom and on every level of the home**. Most smoke detectors reach the end of their service life after **10 years** and should be replaced. If your smoke detectors operate on 9-volt batteries, we recommend changing those batteries at this time. If you need assistance, members of the fire department are more than happy to help. Simply call the station to schedule a time.

The **Underwriters Laboratories Fire Safety Research Institute (UL-FSRI)** promotes a national campaign called "**Close Before You Doze**." This initiative encourages residents to close bedroom doors before going to sleep. A closed door can significantly slow the spread of fire and smoke, reduce temperatures, and **extend the time available for escape**.



This is a picture of an apartment fire in South Sioux City where the occupant was sleeping with her door closed. This allowed her to safely exit the fire with no injuries. The

Finally, the South Sioux City Fire Department strongly recommends that every household develop and practice an **exit plan**. All members of the home should be familiar with at least two ways out of every room, and these plans should be practiced monthly. For two-story homes, portable escape ladders, which can be purchased at any hardware store or online, can be stored under beds and secured to window ledges to allow for a safe descent.

These exercises are known as **Exit Drills in the Home (EDITH)** and are an essential part of fire preparedness.

If you have any questions or would like assistance with home fire safety, please do not hesitate to contact your local fire station **Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

*From our family at the **South Sioux City Fire Department**, thank you for allowing us to take care of yours.*

*Article written and submitted by:  
**Doug Koopman**  
**South Sioux City Fire Chief***

# YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION WEEK

April 20-24, 2026

Youth Violence involves young persons who are children, youths, and young adults that are between the ages of 10 and 24. The person can be an offender, victim, or a witness to the violence. The violence is various aggressive behaviors which may include, verbal abuse, bullying, slapping, hitting, and fist-fighting. Youth violence also includes serious violent acts such as rape, robbery, assault, and homicide committed by and against youth, which may cause injury or death. Further, youths who experience violence within a dating relationship is included in this definition. Dating violence is when one person in the relationship uses power and control over their partner. Dating violence includes physical, verbal, emotional, and sexual assault.

Technology and youth are both young, fast paced, and always changing. Youths are using media technology like smart phones, I-pads, and the internet to communicate all over the world. Text messaging, chat rooms, and social networking websites i.e. Facebook, Twitter have allowed easy development of relationships with people who they may never have met in person.

There are many terms used such as cyber bullying, internet harassment, and internet bullying however electronic aggression is the term used to describe all kinds of bullying that occurs electronically. Electronic Aggression is any type of harassment or bullying which occurs through emails, chat rooms, instant messaging, websites, or text messaging. This explosion in media communication comes with possible risks. Many young people use media to embarrass, harass, or threaten their peers.

Research suggests 9% to 35% of young people report being victims of media violence. Electronic aggression is also linked to emotional distress and conduct problems at school. Further youths who have been victimized electronically are most likely to be victims off-line. This can include being sexually harassed, psychological or emotional abuse by a caregiver, witnessing an assault with a weapon, or being raped.

There are multiple types of electronic aggression. Some examples are disclosing another person's personal information to cause embarrassment, posting rumors or lies about a person, distributing or posting embarrassing pictures, or sending personal information by email. Also, assuming another person's identity electronically to post or send messages about others with the intent of causing the other person harm. The last example is sending mean embarrassing or threatening text messages, instant messages, or emails.

**Tips for parents on how to keep your child safe while using electronics:**

**Talk to your child by asking them who they are talking to similar to how you ask who they will be with when they leave the house.**

**Develop rules about acceptable and safe behaviors with electronic media.**

**Explore the internet by visiting the sites your child visits to make sure it is safe.**

**Talk with other parents about how they discuss technology with their child.**

**Connect with the school to come up with a class to educate them about policies on electronic aggression.**

**Lastly educate yourself and stay informed about the new devices and websites your child may be using.**

If you would like to learn more about Youth Violence several websites can be accessed:

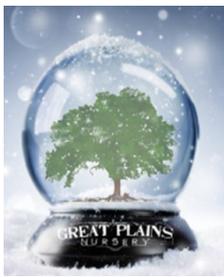
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

[www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov)

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

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

Article written by Dakota County Victim Assistance Program



3074 COUNTRY ROAD WESTON, NE 68070  
 (402) 540-4801  
 info@greatplainsnursery.com  
 greatplainsnursery.com

*Winter Hours*  
 Monday-Thursday 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

## General Winter Pruning Window (Nebraska & Great Plains)



### Winter Pruning 101: Timing, Structure, and Spring Success

Shhhh..the trees are sleeping, but we're not. Pruning is one of our key winter activities - with over 19,000 trees in our growing fields, it takes our field team several weeks to finish the task. Pruning during winter dormancy allows us to see the structure of our trees easily, which in turn informs where we need to prune to ensure optimal branching and growth patterns when spring arrives. In addition, the tree will begin the process of sealing the wound immediately in early spring before there are significant insect populations or fungal spore counts that might attempt to take advantage of an open wound during the summer. Because we know pruning can feel intimidating, this newsletter breaks down when and how to prune during winter dormancy—so you can approach the season with confidence.

Timeframe	What's Happening in the Tree	Pruning Focus	Why it Works
Early - Mid January	Trees are in full dormancy	Structural pruning of shade trees; removal of dead, damaged, crossing, or competing branches	Clear branch structure is visible; pruning stress is minimal; ideal for establishing long-term form
Late January - February	Dormant, preparing for spring growth	Continue structural pruning subordination of codominant stems; scaffold spacing	Wounds begin sealing quickly as growth resumes; disease & insect pressure still low
Late February - Early March	Dormancy ending, buds swelling	Final pruning passes, lighter, corrective cuts	Allows quick wound compartmentalization before active growth
Spring - Early Summer	Active growth; high pest activity	Avoid major pruning (especially oaks & elms)	Increased risk of disease spread and slower wound closure

For an in-depth look read:  
 Pruning Landscape Trees – Key Concepts and Recommendations  
 by Justin Evertson

# APRIL

## SOUTH SIOUX CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADULT EVENT CALENDAR

2121 DAKOTA AVE. 402-494-7545





# 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ALL ADULT PROGRAMS ARE 16+ UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED PLEASE REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS ON OUR WEBSITE.			NE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR - 10AM NEW ADULT PROGRAMS (NAPS) - 2PM			WELCOME SIGNS - 1PM
5	COVER TO COVER: 3:30PM-4:30PM TECH HELP MONDAYS - 5:30PM	TANGLED YARNS - 6PM	NAPS - 2PM	MINI CASSATTS - 6PM	10	11
12	TECH HELP MONDAYS - 5:30PM	TANGLED YARNS - 6PM	NAPS - 2PM	PAJAMA DAY! COZY COTTAGES: WATERCOLOR - 6PM	17	18
19	COVER TO COVER: 3:30PM-4:30PM TECH HELP MONDAYS - 5:30PM	TANGLED YARNS - 6PM	NAPS - 2PM	PRESSED FLOWER CANDLE JARS - 6PM	GOODWILL OF THE GREAT PLAINS JOB ASSISTANCE - 10:30AM	25
26	TECH HELP MONDAYS - 5:30PM	TANGLED YARNS - 6PM	NAPS - 2PM	ENCUENTROS Y CUENTOS: BILINGUAL BOOK CLUB - 5:30PM		



<<SCAN TO VIEW THE SSCPL EVENT CALENDAR ONLINE



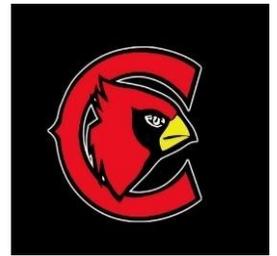
PUBLICLIBRARY@SOUTHSIOUXCITY.ORG  
 HTTPS://LIBRARIES.NE.GOV/SOUTHSIOUXCITY



# SSC NEWSLETTER

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS CORNER

by Dr. Rony Ortega



**Dear Community,**

South Sioux City Community Schools recently convened its Facilities Think Tank (Feb. 4 and 23), bringing together community members with diverse perspectives to continue discussions about long-term facility needs.

The group reaffirmed challenges the District and Board of Education are closely monitoring: overcrowded schools, aging facilities, and the need for safe and secure learning environments. Enrollment growth, particularly at the elementary level, continues to add pressure and highlights the importance of long-term solutions rather than short-term fixes.

Community voice remains central to this work. Last November's community-wide survey showed residents understand these facility challenges and generally support a phased-in approach to addressing needs over time.

Safety is a priority. The Think Tank discussed secure entry points, vestibules, and the importance of consistent safety features across all schools.

No decisions have been made. The Think Tank's role is to ask questions and explore options, with an emphasis on financially responsible solutions that remain mindful of taxpayers. District leadership will continue working with the community and will share any future options before decisions are considered.

Community input remains vital, and we are committed to open communication as this work continues.

Dr. Rony Ortega, Superintendent of Schools



Estimada comunidad:

Las Escuelas Comunitarias de South Sioux City convocaron recientemente a su Grupo de Trabajo de Instalaciones o Facilities Think Tank (4 y 23 de febrero), reuniendo a miembros de la comunidad con diversas perspectivas para continuar las conversaciones sobre las necesidades de infraestructura a largo plazo.

El grupo reafirmó los desafíos que el Distrito y la Junta de Educación están monitoreando de cerca: escuelas con sobrecupo, instalaciones envejecidas y la necesidad de entornos de aprendizaje seguros y protegidos. El crecimiento en la matrícula, particularmente a nivel primaria, continúa generando presión y resalta la importancia de buscar soluciones a largo plazo en lugar de medidas temporales.

La voz de la comunidad sigue siendo fundamental en este trabajo. La encuesta comunitaria realizada en noviembre pasado mostró que los residentes comprenden estos desafíos de infraestructura y, en general, apoyan un enfoque gradual para atender las necesidades con el paso del tiempo.

La seguridad es una prioridad. El Grupo de Trabajo conversó sobre puntos de entrada seguros, vestíbulos de acceso y la importancia de contar con medidas de seguridad consistentes en todas las escuelas.

No se han tomado decisiones. El papel del Grupo de Trabajo es hacer preguntas y explorar opciones, con énfasis en soluciones financieramente responsables y conscientes del impacto en los contribuyentes. El liderazgo del Distrito continuará trabajando con la comunidad y compartirá cualquier opción futura antes de que se consideren decisiones.

La participación de la comunidad sigue siendo vital, y estamos comprometidos con una comunicación abierta mientras este trabajo continúa.

Dr. Rony Ortega  
Superintendente de Escuelas

**South Sioux City Community Schools**

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

