Many of you have, or are thinking of starting your own side business. A side business can be a hobby that brings in a little extra income, but with a little use of technology you can market your business to a wider audience and get more customers and clients.

Anything can be sold on the Internet. If you have a website, or can afford to create one you can expand your sales and increase your income. But, if you don't have a website, can't afford to develop one, or simply aren't interested in creating one at this time, you still have options to expand your reach.

One of the biggest problems beginning small business owners face is getting exposure. Many social media platforms, such as Facebook and Instagram allow small businesses to market products. Signing up and creating the account is free, you have the option to pay for online ads and other special features.

E-tail platforms such as Etsy, Ebay and Amazon give small business owners the online location where customers can easily find them. Accounts like these require a small monthly fee and can take a significant amount of time to set up, especially if you have a lot of items to sell. E-tail platforms work very well in conjunction with social media and your other marketing strategies.

These are just a few suggestions for starting your small business. We have plenty of books and online resources to help you get your business running smoothly. Call us today, or visit our website for more info!

How to Prioritize Your Debt (part 1: secured loans)

First and foremost, always pay secured debts on time. Your secured debts are things like your car loans, mortgages, personal loans, furniture store rent to own purchases.

These are loans that you voluntarily enter into with the creditor and you fail to live up to the agreement, the creditor can repossess the property, often without notice. If this happens, you lose all the money you put into owning the item. Also, you will have to obtain insurance for the property and pay all the expenses you incurred. By the time you file, you will owe a lot more than the item you sold.

Before getting into one of these contracts, you should look up your credit history. You can do so for free on annualcreditreport.com. If you do not know what is on your credit report, pay for a credit score report once a year. This is a great way to review your payment history, and correct any incorrect information that could be delaying your getting a loan.

If you want to know more about how to take control of your money, you can review our legal resources on the library's website or borrow books in our legal section.

The summer night is like a perfection of thought. - Walt Whitman

From the Superintendent's Office

WELCOME CENTER
Moving to the City Library Building

The South Sioux City Community School District is moving the Welcome Center to the North side of the Public Library. The new street address is 204 W. 21st Street and the entrance is located on the North side of the building.

This center serves as the registration site for all new students. New families can stop in or call the Welcome Center between 8:00 a.m. -3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

We are also asking Preschool and Kindergarten students to enroll as soon as possible in order to save their spot. If you have friends, relatives or neighbors with preschool or kindergarten age children, please make sure they have registered for this upcoming school year.

To register a new student in our School District you must bring the following Documents:

1. Birth Certificate* (Required by Nebraska state law 43-2501 through 43-2507)
2. Copy of Immigration Record
3. (2)Proofs of Address, ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS must contain the parent/guardian’s name and address.
4. 1 Proof of Parenthood or Guardian

The Welcome Center is open all summer and we encourage all new families to stop by or call as soon as possible to begin the enrollment process.

The Superintendent's Office

JULY PUBLIC MEETINGS

July 2020

Cardinal Pride

Mid-American Energy has once again graciously donated $10,000.00 toward the cost of obtaining and planting trees in South Sioux City as they have done so for many years. This support allows the city to use these funds to purchase additional trees. With help from Mid-American Energy, South Sioux City has once again been awarded Tree City USA for the 26th year and has received the Tree City Growth Award for the 12th year.

Mid-American Energy promotes energy efficiency by providing grants to support tree plantings projects. Trees promote energy efficiency by providing shade to buildings while beautifying city-owned parks, roadways and other common areas within communities.

The City of South Sioux City appreciates this partnership with Mid-American Energy as the city strives to be energy efficient in its practices.

In the picture is from left to right: Tony Gossel with Mid-American Energy, Gene Muffly and Bryce Book with Mid-American Energy.

Picture taken by: 

on the Inside

- Volunteer of the Month
- Community Orchard
- Freedom Rock
- Grass Clippings

4th of July

Happy 4th of July!
Your community orchard is growing more than apple trees!

Thanks to a Nebraska Green Communities grant, over 200 new plants have been added to the orchard this spring. New paths of stone and brick guide visitors through a pergola to appreciate shade and vertical growing space and to a pavilion for classes and gatherings.

The orchard had drainage issues, so swales were added leading to new rain gardens. Plants that work best in rain gardens are long roots. Once the plants are established and the rain garden fills with water, the water slowly drains following the plant roots.

A variety of native edible fruit bushes and some Canadian oven cherry fruit bushes were planted this spring. Many pollinator plants were added to encourage the native bees and the honey bee hives in the orchard. Thanks to University of Nebraska Master Gardener, Linda Center for planting much of the plants this spring, since due to COVID-19 pandemic, we were not able to bring in volunteers to help.

Also now this year are raised beds, that can be used for a variety of small fruits and vegetables. When the orchard began, door would cut off the tops of the apple trees, so a tall fence now surrounds the orchard.

Last year over 1200 pounds of apples were given away to local residents through food pantries, school children visiting the orchard and by individuals picking their own apples. South Sioux City Community Orchard Facebook page is updated with projects, activities and dates for picking up.

Volunteering at the orchard would be a great way to learn about gardening, growing fruit and beekeeping. Orchard volunteers help with mulching, weeding, and watering plants and with groups as they come to visit. If you would like to learn about beekeeping, volunteer and learn alongside our beekeeper.

Gardening is a healthy activity during this pandemic and pretty easy to be careful about distancing.

Contact South Sioux City Parks Department or Nebraska Extension in Dakota County to volunteer.

The community orchard is a city project. The University of Nebraska Extension office in Dakota City and local University of Nebraska Master Gardeners help with the project.

Carol Lavelle Extension Educator, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

What to Do with Grass Clippings

Don’t throw those grass clippings away! They’re cheap and nutritious hitch for your lawn. When recycling grass clippings by laying them on your lawn, there are two things to keep in mind.

• Keep your mower blade sharp.

Avoid mowing when the grass is wet. Mow regularly at the recommended cutting height for your type of grass. If the grass gets too long and mowing at your normal cutting height will remove more than ⅓ of the height of the grass blades, raise the height on your mower. Mow once or twice at the raised cutting height, then again in a different direction at the normal height.

Benefits of Lawn Mowing the Lawn

They provide free lawn food. The most important thing you can do for your lawn is to feed it regularly, and grass clippings contain the same beneficial nutrients (like nitrogen and potassium) as lawn food, though in smaller amounts. Overall, grass clippings can provide a portion of the annual nutrient requirement for your lawn.

Law for you, in addition to recycling nutrients back into the soil, leaving the clippings will eat down on your mowing time by reducing you of the chore of emptying the grass catcher and hailing bags of clippings out of the cart.

FREEDOM ROCK COMES TO FREEDOM PARK

For years residents throughout Iowa (and the upper Midwest) have enjoyed viewing the Freedom Rock painted by native Iowa artist, Robert "Rusty" Hargrave. Nearly every one of Iowa’s 99 counties has one of the original custom painted boulders adorned with Serenseen’s colorful and patriotic imagery...and now, there’s a Freedom Rock in Sioux City’s Freedom Park. The 21 ton granite slab was recently placed on the special pad created for its display on the east side of the Interpretive Center adjacent to Veterans Drive, and is awaiting the painting which will bring life. Sometime late this year or early in 2021 the artist will come to Freedom Park to create the patriotic motif on the granite which will be Freedom Park’s own signature. Freedom Rock, whenever they are located, are an extremely popular tourist attraction, and Siouxland Freedom Park is proud to be the location of this installation. The driving force behind the Freedom Rock in our back yard is Captain Marty Horgan of the 150th AAW, Iowa ANG. Marty has been the organizer of the POW-MIA Remembrance Run that cover the last ten years has raised nearly six figures for the mission of Siouxland Freedom Park. The Freedom Rock will be yet another attraction to draw visitors from all over the area to Siouxland Freedom Park.