



**MARCH 2024**

# CARDINAL *Pride*

## Tax Year 2024 Homestead Exemption

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, 2024 and June 30, 2024. For tax year 2024, June 30th is on a Sunday, which allows for applications to be timely filed on Monday, July 1st.

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 over the age of 65;
- • 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. 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

ON THE **INSIDE**

- **2024 Citizen's Academy**
- **2024 Severe Weather Awareness Training**
- **FOG**
- **Haven-house New Location**
- **USDA US Forestry**



## **MARCH PUBLIC MEETINGS**

### City Hall Council Chambers– 1615 1st Avenue

City Council Meeting*:	4th & 18th at 5:00 p.m.
Community Development Agency:	12th & 26th at 11:00 a.m.
Finance Committee*:	6th, 13th, 20th & 27th at Noon
Public Works Committee*:	11th & 25th at 5:00p.m.
Design Commission:	7th & 21st at 8:30 a.m.
Planning & Zoning Commission:	13th & 27th at 4:00 p.m.

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

Parks & Recreation Board: 4th at 5:15 p.m.

### South Sioux City Library – 2121 Dakota Avenue

Library Board: 6th 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)

# South Sioux City Police Department's

## 2024 Citizen's Academy

Classes are held every Tuesday starting April 2nd through May 28th.  
6:00 p.m.— 9:30 p.m.



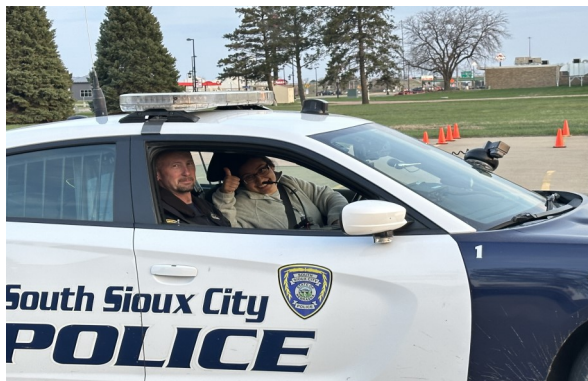
Experience what it takes to be a police officer in the South Sioux City Police Department's 2024 Citizen's Academy. This program gives citizens an overview how police officers perform their duties and how the department serves the community.

Applicants must be 21 and over and will have to successfully pass a background check. The South Sioux City Police Department reserves the right to screen all applicants before they can be accepted into the academy.

- ♦ Firearms
- ♦ Taser
- ♦ Defensive Tactics
- ♦ DUI Enforcement
- ♦ Tactical Team Training
- ♦ Tire Deflation Device
- ♦ Driving/Traffic Stops
- ♦ Investigations

If interested, applications are located at [www.southsiouxcity.org](http://www.southsiouxcity.org), City Hall or by calling Dori Koster (Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police) at (402) 494-7553. Deadline for applications is March 15<sup>th</sup> by 4:00 p.m. at the Law Enforcement Center, 701 W 29<sup>th</sup> Street.

A free t-shirt will be given to each participant and meals will be provided.



## 2024 Severe Weather Awareness Training

Hosted by: Dakota County, NE Emergency Management  
Class is free and open to the public – no preregistration required



### WHEN:

→ Thursday, March 21st @ 6:30pm

### WHERE:

→ Memorial Hall

205 W 16th Street, South Sioux City, NE

### Training topics include:

- NWS products
- Weather safety
- Severe weather fundamentals
- Communicating reports

For More Information



Image Courtesy of Steve Smedley



# Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG)

## What is FOG and why do we have a FOG Ordinance?

FOG refers to fats, oils, and grease that are generated from normal business operations of food service establishments (FSE's). FOG is commonly washed into the plumbing system during clean-up through the kitchen sink. As it cools, it congeals and decreases pipe capacity both inside the FSE and in the city sanitary sewer system. FOG can block your drain, your neighbors drain, the main collection lines, and potentially becoming an environmental and public health risk.

The primary goal of the FOG Ordinance is to eliminate FOG-related sanitary sewer overflows. Compliance Technicians will routinely do inspections of kitchens and FSE's to ensure compliance with regulations set forth by the Sioux City Municipal Code. It is up to each FSE to develop a FOG waste management plan that best fits your establishment and properly disposes of the FOG waste on a consistent basis.

## Is my Business a Food Service Establishment (FSE)?

The FOG Ordinance defines an FSE as "any building, vehicle, place, or structure, or any room or division in a building, vehicle, place, or structure where food is prepared, served, or sold for immediate consumption on or in the vicinity of the premises; called for, taken out, or consumed on property by customers, or prepared prior to being delivered to another location for consumption." This includes, but is not limited to, restaurants, bars, schools, daycares, churches, nursing homes, bakeries, grocery stores, caterers, food/meat processors and other food preparation operations."

## What are the most important things for me, the FSE owner or operator, to know about the FOG Ordinance?

City staff will perform routine compliance inspection. The important items the WWTP will check are:

1. The grease removal device (interior grease trap or exterior grease interceptor) is under 25% full of FOG and solids. This will be done via physical inspection by the Compliance Technician with the use of a sludge judge.
2. Maintenance records, including accurate records by the certified grease hauler, are on-site and available at the request of the inspector. Records must be kept for a period of 3 years.
3. Any additional requirements from the official inspection report.

## What enforcement action(s) could potentially occur if the regulations of the FOG Ordinance are not met by the FSE?

Enforcement actions could include, but are not limited to, notice of violation without a fine; notice of violation with fines; civil penalties; submission of a compliance plan; installation of a properly sized grease control mechanism; and clean-up costs for blockages and sanitary sewer overflows.

## Volunteer of the month is Jan Johansen

Mr. Johansen has served on Friends of the Library, the SSC Library board of directors for many years, Civil Service Commission, SSC Library Foundation, and served in numerous capacities for his church through the years. He is an active member of the SSC Chamber of Commerce. He taught for 40 years at South Sioux City High School, teaching Geometry and other math classes, and was the first computer science teacher at SSC, teaching both high school students and adult night classes. He drove the school bus for rural students for a few years. He was the school district's Audio Visual Director, and the announcer for all the home football and basketball games and track meets. In addition to teaching, he was employed part time by Wells Fargo Security and armored car divisions.



Mr. Johansen and his wife, Linda, have been married for 62 years, and have been blessed with 5 children, Eric (dec'd) and Mary, Kristin (dec'd), Karl, Wendy and Mark, Adrienne (dec'd), four grandchildren and one great grandchild.

# We Are Moving!

New Location: 921 B Street South Sioux City, NE 68776

Start Date: February 15th, 2024

**If you have any questions about the big move,  
please call the office at 402-494-7592.**



Haven House offers crisis intervention and prevention services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment, human trafficking, and stalking.

**24/7 Crisis Line: 1-800-440-4633**

## *USDA US Forestry – National Arbor Day Foundation Funding*

South Sioux City was chosen by the USDA/US Forestry Services to receive \$1 million in community-changing funding through the historic Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The city's pass-through agency for assistance is the National Arbor Day Foundation located right here in Lincoln NE! Over the next five years, the city will implement several strategies to re-establish a multi-generational tree canopy. Activities will include planting and establishing diversified trees in neighborhoods across the city; removing dead, diseased or structurally unsound trees; updating the city's tree inventory as part of its' Community Forest Management plan while educating the community on the importance of trees, planting and care instructions as we plant over 1500 trees in the next five years. The city hopes you will join us when offers of trees to plant and care for becomes available to further enhance our city's landscapes, provide shade against the sweltering heat, and create a more vibrant and welcoming community. More to come as we roll-out this great opportunity!



## *USDA US Forestry – Financiamiento de la Fundación del Día Nacional del Árbol*

South Sioux City fue elegida por el USDA/US Servicios Forestales para recibir \$1 millón en fondos para cambiar la comunidad a través de la histórica Ley de Reducción de la Inflación (IRA). ¡La agencia de asistencia de la ciudad es la Fundación Nacional del Día del Árbol ubicada aquí en Lincoln NE! Durante los próximos cinco años, la ciudad implementará varias estrategias para restablecer una cubierta arbórea multigeneracional. Las actividades incluirán plantar y establecer árboles diversificados en vecindarios de toda la ciudad; eliminar árboles muertos, enfermos o estructuralmente defectuosos; actualizar el inventario de árboles de la ciudad como parte de su plan de Manejo Forestal Comunitario y al mismo tiempo educar a la comunidad sobre la importancia de los árboles, la plantación y las instrucciones de cuidado mientras plantamos más de 1500 árboles en los próximos cinco años. La ciudad espera que se una a nosotros cuando haya ofertas de árboles para plantar y cuidar para mejorar aún más los paisajes de nuestra ciudad, brindar sombra contra el calor sofocante y crear una comunidad más vibrante y acogedora. ¡Más por venir a medida que implementemos esta gran oportunidad!





# APRIL

## CHILDRENS EVENT CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Story Time 10:00am Lets Craft 4:30pm	Toddler Time 10:00am TEEN TIME 5:30PM	Tween Time 4:30pm			Watercolor Painting 11:00
	Lets Craft 4:30pm	Toddler Time 10:00am TEEN TIME 5:30PM	Tween Time 4:30pm	Dungeons & Donna 4:00pm	Story Time 10:00am TWEEN & TEEN ANIME CLUB 3:45PM	Graphic Novel Book Club 11:00am
	Lets Craft 4:30pm	Toddler Time 10:00am TEEN TIME 5:30PM	Tween Time 4:30pm	Dungeons & Donna 4:00pm	Story Time 10:00am TWEEN & TEEN ANIME CLUB 3:45PM	Fairy Houses 2:00
	Lets Craft 4:30pm	Toddler Time 10:00am TEEN TIME 5:30PM	Tween Time 4:30pm	Trashion Fashion 4:30-7:30	Story Time 10:00am TWEEN & TEEN ANIME CLUB 3:45PM	Egyptian Plater Tiles 2:00
	Lets Craft 4:30pm	Toddler Time 10:00am TEEN TIME 5:30PM	<b>ALL PROGRAMS ARE 30 MINUTES UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE.</b>			

\*PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*

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

SCAN TO VIEW THE SSCPL EVENT CALENDAR ONLINE >>>

# APRIL

## SOUTH SIOUX CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADULT EVENT CALENDAR

2121 DAKOTA AVE. 402-494-7545

# 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	LUNCH & LEARN: SO MANY BILLS 12PM-1PM TECH HELP MONDAYS 4PM-8PM	TANGLED YARNS - 6PM	NE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR - 10AM-2PM		GOODWILL OF THE GREAT PLAINS JOB ASSISTANCE - 1:30PM	DUNGEON, DICE, AND DRAGONS? 1PM - 4PM
7	COVER TO COVER 3:30PM-4:30PM SSC TRIVIA NIGHT - 6PM	TANGLED YARNS - 6PM	LASER P2 DEMO - 11AM LASER P2 DEMO - 4PM	BLACKOUT POETRY - 4:30PM APRIL SHOWERS BRING BOOK MARK SHOWERS 6:15PM	12	13
14	LUNCH & LEARN: HOMEWORK HELP QUICK AND EASY 12PM-1PM TECH HELP MONDAYS 4PM-8PM	REMEMBER THE DATE THROUGH MOVIES - 12PM TANGLED YARNS - 6PM LOVE LETTERS TO ME - 6PM	17	18	19	20
21	LUNCH & LEARN: FIND YOUR NEXT FAVORITE BOOK 12PM-1PM COVER TO COVER 3:30PM-4:30PM TECH HELP MONDAYS 4PM-8PM	TANGLED YARNS - 6PM	24	25	26	27
28	LUNCH & LEARN: KEEP TRACK OF WHAT YOU READ 12PM-1PM TECH HELP MONDAYS 4PM-8PM	TANGLED YARNS - 6PM	<b>ALL ADULT PROGRAMS ARE 16+ UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED</b>			



<<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 SSC Community,

I wanted to take a moment to share some specific highlights and updates from our school district:

Recently, I had the pleasure of participating in the annual TeamMates Silent Auction at the Cardinal Education Foundation Kelly Flynn Night. It was a wonderful experience to meet coach Kelly Flynn himself, as well as former players and their parents. Engaging with members of our community in such events reinforces the strong bonds we share and highlights the collective commitment to supporting our students' success.

I'm thrilled to also share my experiences with Leadership Dakota County and volunteering at the brand new Haven House. These opportunities have provided me invaluable insights and connections within our community. It's heartening to witness the dedication of volunteers and organizations working tirelessly to make a positive impact on the lives of others in South Sioux City.

Finally, as we strive to maintain excellence in education, I urge our families to assist us in recruiting current teachers to come back home to SSC. Whether they've retired in another state or are considering a career change, their expertise and passion are invaluable assets to our district. Let's encourage our children and relatives to explore the fulfilling profession of teaching and join us in shaping the future of our community... SSC is the place to be!

I am grateful for the unwavering support and dedication of our community and I look forward to our continued collaboration in the months ahead.

Dr. Rony Ortega, Superintendent  
South Sioux City Community School



Estimada comunidad de SSC,

Quería tomarme un momento para compartir algunos aspectos destacados y actualizaciones específicas de nuestro distrito escolar:

Recientemente, tuve el placer de participar en la subasta silenciosa anual de TeamMates en la noche para conmemorar a Kelly Flynn de parte de la Fundación Educativa Cardenal. Fue una experiencia maravillosa conocer al mismísimo entrenador Kelly Flynn, así como a ex jugadores y a sus padres. Interactuar con miembros de nuestra comunidad en tales eventos refuerza los fuertes vínculos que compartimos y resalta el compromiso colectivo de apoyar el éxito de nuestros estudiantes.

Estoy encantado de compartir también mis experiencias con Leadership Dakota County y ser voluntario en la nueva Haven House o Casa Haven. Estas oportunidades me han brindado conocimientos y conexiones invaluable dentro de nuestra comunidad. Es alentador ser testigo de la dedicación de los voluntarios y las organizaciones que trabajan incansablemente para generar un impacto positivo en las vidas de otras personas en South Sioux City.

Finalmente, mientras nos esforzamos por mantener la excelencia en la educación, instó a nuestras familias a que nos ayuden a reclutar a maestros ejercientes a que regresen a SSC. Ya sea que se hayan jubilado en otro estado o estén considerando un cambio de carrera, su experiencia y pasión son activos invaluable para nuestro distrito. Animemos a nuestros hijos y familiares a explorar la satisfactoria profesión de la enseñanza y unámonos todos para dar forma al futuro de nuestra comunidad... SSC is the place to be! ¡SSC es el lugar para estar!

Estoy agradecido por el apoyo inquebrantable y la dedicación de nuestra comunidad y espero con ansias nuestra colaboración continua en los próximos meses.

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

