

BUDGET PREPARATION

During the month of February, city staff and the city council will finalize the 2010-2011 Municipal Budget. This includes all revenue and expenditures anticipated during the fiscal year. Considerable time and effort goes into the preparation of the budget which sets the direction for programs and activities for 2010-2011.

We anticipate these documents will be made available for public review during February, with a final public hearing to be held on February 18, 2010, at the City Office. You are encouraged to attend this public hearing and become more familiar with City operations and the cost for the services. Please watch the Sioux Center News for official notification of the public hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC INPUT AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Anyone with questions or concerns they would like to discuss with the city council is invited to attend the first 15 minutes of any regular council meeting. You are welcome to talk with the council on any subject. Although the council may discuss any issue, by law they cannot take formal action on an item that is not on the agenda for that particular meeting. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity.

*Interested in commenting on city issues? Check out www.siouxcenter.org and in the upper-left hand is a link to "Report a Problem/Make a Suggestion." We appreciate your input.

ADDITIONAL APPLIANCE REBATES AVAILABLE

The Iowa Office of Energy Independence has announced a rebate program for appliances in the amount of \$2.8 million. The program begins March 1, 2010, and will continue until funds are exhausted. If interested, please find information at www.energy.iowa.gov. We would like to remind you that additional rebates from Bright Energy Solutions may also apply. Please visit www.brightenergysolutions.com for information.

CENSUS JOBS AVAILABLE

The 2010 Census is looking for people who are willing to work part-time as a census taker. Work is usually within your own community during the evening and weekend hours and offers good pay. For more information or to apply call 1-866-861-2010 or visit www.2010censusjobs.gov.

WATER LEAK DETECTION

A leak in your bathroom toilet can increase your household water consumption. Leaks are often silent and can go undetected. They usually occur in the toilet tank where water either drains down the overflow pipe or drains past the plunger ball. These leaks can be detected by adding a small amount of food coloring to the toilet tank. Watch to see if the coloring enters the toilet bowl within 30 minutes without flushing. If it does, the cause will most likely be one of the following:

1. The plunger ball does not fit snugly into the valve seat—adjust the alignment.
2. The plunger ball is worn or rough around the edges—replace it.
3. The valve seal is scaled or corroded. Sand it with an emery cloth or replace it.

If you need assistance making repairs, we suggest you contact a plumber.

SNOW REMINDERS

- Please promptly remove snow from sidewalks.
- Keep fire hydrants clear of snow.
- Please be considerate when removing snow. Avoid scooping or blowing snow from driveways and sidewalks onto streets or neighbor's property.
- Please watch for approaching cars when clearing snow off of driveways.

ECO - EFFICIENCY CORNER

- Throw away less food—Americans waste 14% of their food purchases. Try planned weekly menus only purchasing the food you need. (Eco@home)



FEBRUARY AT THE...

Spring Tot Swim Lessons—for ages 2-6 years olds begin February 16, with 4 sessions offered. Pre-registration is required by calling 712-722-4386.

Looking for valuable family time?

- Check out *Tuesday & Thursday* nights at the All Seasons Center where pool admission is **BUY ONE GET ONE FREE.**

Reminder—The ASC pools will be closed for cleaning the 1st Tuesday of each month from 4–9 a.m. Therefore, NO 5:30 a.m. lap swim or 5:40 water aerobics on Feb. 2, March 2, and April 6.

New Link—Check out our website to find information on the Indoor Fair, Golf Expo, Outdoor Show and more!

Facility Hours: Please make use of our website at www.allseasonscenter.org or call 722-4386.

BOYS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The annual tournament for 6th-8th grade boys will be Friday, February 26 and Saturday, February 27 with 24 teams being accepted. Volunteers are needed to keep score, run the clock, take tickets, and ref. Sponsors of this event are Sioux Center Recreation and Kiwanis Club. For more information, registration, or if you are willing to help, please call Dave Ruter at 722-4386.

2010 SUMMER EVENTS

The Sioux Center Summer Celebration and car show is set for June 3, 4, and 5. For more information contact the Chamber Office at 722-3457.

MUNICIPAL REMINDERS

1. The Driver's License Examiners are at the Centre Mall on Tuesday & Wednesday from **9:30 a.m.—4:15 p.m.** Phone number is 722-2923.
2. **Overnight Parking:** No parking is allowed on city streets from 2:00-6:00 a.m. throughout the year.
3. Unless you are permitted, please **do not** park in handicapped parking areas which are either signed or marked with blue print.

STRUTTING YOUR STUFF FOR HEART HEALTH

The Sioux County Heart Walk committee is planning a one-of-a-kind style show. The special event will feature willing male volunteers from the Sioux Center community, modeling women's clothing. Look for our chief of police, as well as your banker and even a pastor. This is a fundraiser to benefit the Sioux Co. Heart Association. Join us on Thursday, Feb. 25 at the lower level of the Corporate Center. Punch will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the catered meal served at 7:00 p.m. Price of tickets is \$15/each or 2 tickets for \$25. *Please call your reservations to Diana at the Cardiac Centre at 722-8335 by February 15.*



PRUNING TREES

Most trees should be pruned rather than topped during the dormant season. Here are some reasons to prune rather than top trees:

- 1) Rapid New Growth
- 2) Insects and Disease
- 3) Aesthetics
- 4) Starvation and Tree Death

If you have questions concerning pruning or topping trees, call Brad Vermeer at 722-0761.

RADON AWARENESS

How does radon get into my home?

Radon is a colorless and odorless gas that might collect in your home. Radon gas seeps into a house from the soil around and under the home; through cracks in the foundation, floor, or walls; through hollow-block walls; and through openings around floor drains, pipes, and sump pumps. Radon is found in old and new homes, with or without basements.

Why worry?

- Long-term exposure may cause lung cancer
- Radon increases during the winter months

What can you do?

A simple way to know if radon is a problem is with a test. Radon test kits are available at the City Office for \$6.00. Any questions, call the *Community Health Partners* at 737-2971 or visit www.epa.gov/radon.

- **First 10 customers will receive a FREE kit!**

"To provide excellent quality of life and municipal services for our community through a spirit of progressive cooperation."

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