

Annual Chili Cook-Off Draws Big Crowd

Spring fever? Cabin fever? After days of brutal wind-chill temps, the weather for the 34th Annual Chili Cook-Off was sunny skies and reached 45 degrees. The heat wave brought an estimated 250-300 people to the community center on Saturday, February 25, for the Chamber-sponsored event. There were seven teams competing this year for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place chili, Best Decorated Booth and the People's Choice award. B.J. Jamison provided great entertainment with many singing along and some hitting the dance floor. Everyone's sweet tooth was cured by the St. Agnes church pie sales. Before the end of the night, all contestants were scraping the bottom of their pans.

Chairman Ali Goodenow said,

"What a great turn out! It was nice to see so many people in the community come out and enjoy a night of conversation, good music and delicious chili and soup. Although we had fewer teams this year, it was great to see the amount of support our contestants received by all who showed up. I hope in the upcoming years we can get more people involved and can get our team numbers back up to 10 teams so we can continue to have our annual cook-off for many more years to come. I'm very excited to be passing on the torch of the cook-off chairman to my wonderful co-chairs, Debbie Connelly and Taylour Snyder. I look forward to getting back into the competition and having a booth of my own next year."



Photo/Debbie Connelly

“What do you think?” Grand Slam Chili, sponsored by Homegrown Kids, team members Heather Hagler, Lexi McMicheal, and Cassy DeLosh chat with Kay and Buzz Lohmiller as the couple taste-test their chili at Saturday's Chamber-sponsored Chili Cook-Off at the community center. To see who won, please turn to page 8.

Residents' Voices Heard In Community Opinion Survey

By Janet Larreau

The Village of Arnold is currently conducting a Comprehensive Planning Program, including preparing a new Comprehensive Plan and Community Housing Study that will document both the present and future needs of the community for the next 10 years. Comprehensive planning is important in regards to documenting existing property and infrastructure conditions and planning for future growth and development of the community.

An important piece of the program was conducting both a Community Opinion and Workforce Housing Needs survey.

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Results from the surveys were released to members of the Village Board and Planning Commission in mid-February.

A total of 120-community opinion and 47 workforce housing needs surveys were submitted. The majority of respondents have lived in Arnold 21-plus years and 51 percent said they are employed in Arnold.

Residents were asked to rate the quality/availability of 30 community services and public facilities in and around town. The majority of residents gave a good to excellent rating to parks and recreation, garbage collection/recycling, downtown businesses, entertainment, library services, the school, and

childcare opportunities. Receiving an unfavorable rating were streets and sidewalks. Employment opportunities received a fair rating.

Receiving the highest response ratio in the question of “What top three most important business/industry sectors in the Village you would like to see addressed” were: law enforcement/protection, health, , farming/agriculture, and leisure/hospitality/tourism.

Ninety-three percent of 114 responses said they would recommend Arnold Public Schools to others. A majority thought that school traffic circulation needs to be addressed.

The survey asked residents what would improve the appearance of the Village. The

majority strongly agreed that nuisance enforcement/property cleanup, housing development/rehabilitation, improved streets, sidewalks and alleys, business retention, recruit and expansion, increased marketing of vacant buildings, and new/improved parks/rec/trails is important to them.

Ninety-seven percent of respondents said infill development (vacant land/redevelopment of dilapidated properties) is a good opportunity for future residential growth.

A swimming pool, recreation areas, and activity center received the highest response ratio of what commercial and entertainment facilities the community should expand

upon.

A majority of survey respondents said they support stricter enforcement of Village ordinances regarding parking, junk vehicles, and property maintenance. They also support the enforcement of pet licensing, leash ordinances, animal containment, etc., in the community.

Residents were also asked if minor or major repair is needed to their home and the type of repair needed. They were also asked which additional housing types are needed in Arnold in the next ten years.

A high percentage of respondents would support the Village of Arnold in the following: (1) obtaining State or Federal grant dollars to establish an owner housing rehabilitation program, (2) obtaining State or Federal grant dollars to establish a renter housing rehabilitation program, (3) support the Village in establishing a local program that would purchase dilapidated houses, tear down the houses and make the lots available for a family or individual to build a house, and (4) would support the Village in See Opinion Survey, Page 2

Deadline Nearing for Alumni Letters

Laying out of pages for the 2023 edition of The Alumni News will soon begin. All alumni - especially honored class members - are encouraged to submit a letter telling about their life since graduation, or memories of high school days.

At this point, it would work best to e-mail letters directly to Alumni News editor Janet Larreau at arnoldsentinel@gpcom.net with the subject line “Alumni Letter.”

The deadline to submit is March 15.

Touch of Grace, Oakbrook PT Hold Official Ribbon Cuttings



Photos/Debbie Connelly

(Top, center) Molly and Josh Magill, owners of Oakbrook Physical Therapy, and (bottom, center) Andrew and April Tickle, owners of Touch of Grace Massage Therapy & Spa, celebrated their grand openings with ribbon cuttings on Saturday afternoon. Plenty of family, friends, and the business community were there to support them. Tours were given, showing the addition of Touch of Grace's new sauna since opening, and Josh and Molly answered questions about their practice, which is now accepting all major insurance. The ribbon cuttings were sponsored by the Arnold Economic Development Corporation. AEDC Director Cheryl Carson thanked the Ticklees for bringing a downtown building back to life, and the Magills for bringing a new business to town.

