

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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## Village Passes Resolution That Will Pave Way for Redevelopment In Business Area

By Janet Larreau

The Village Board of Trustees passed Resolution 2023-5 to declare the entire downtown business area as substandard and blighted at their regular meeting held on March 13. The decision was made after a public hearing opened and closed with no comment.

The real estate is officially described as the Central Analysis Redevelopment Area (CARA). At the end of January, a separate board known as the Planning Commission held a public hearing regarding the Blight and Substandard Study and passed Resolution 2023-1, stating that the Commission reviewed the CARA and confirmed that the area described met the definition according to the Nebraska Community Development Act. This led to the Village Board's vote.

The study was updated from a previous study done in 2007 by Hanna:Keelan Associates, P.C. Keith Carl, Community Planner with Hanna:Keelan said that an updated blight and substandard study is essential to apply for funding for downtown revitalization.

**AEDC Update**  
Arnold Economic Development Director Cheryl Carson gave Board members an update on the Community Opinion and Workforce Housing Needs surveys, saying that results were published in The Arnold Sentinel. A Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for March 27, when results of the separate housing study will be

reviewed. Carson said the grant for future housing land development was submitted on January 19. The state had estimated having award decisions by the end of February, but they are experiencing delays.

Carson assisted in writing and submitting a grant request to History Nebraska for the Rural Nebraska Historic Preservation Grant. If awarded, the funds will continue the efforts to preserve the Finch Memorial Library's physical structure.

AEDC will be participating in the Give 4 Custer County Fundraising Program, sponsored by the Custer County Foundation. Carson will be assisting and applying on behalf of Finch Memorial Library.

**CC Defibrillator**  
Heather Hagler, who was representing the Arnold Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD), spoke to Board members about the AED defibrillator at the community center. The AVFD maintains the defibrillator and new batteries were installed; however, the defibrillator has become obsolete and the AVFD is unable to purchase additional batteries and pads for the unit. Since new batteries were just installed, the defibrillator should be good for approximately one year. Hagler submitted a quote of \$2,055.00 for a new unit that will be included in the 2023-2024 budget.

**Swimming Pool**  
Personnel have been hired for the upcoming season at the Arnold Pool, although applications are still being taken. Shavonne Schacher will be manager/WSI instructor, and Haley Reed will be assistant

manager. Lifeguards (provided all qualifications are met) will be: Reagan Cool, Harmony Borah, Serenity Borah, Jami Lamphear, and Jamie Tickle.

Pool hours were discussed, but were tabled. During discussion of wages, it was decided to increase 1st year assistant manager to \$12.75 an hour and 1st year manager to \$13.50. A resolution setting the new wages will be on the April agenda.

A robotic vacuum for the pool is included in the 2022-2023 budget and will be ordered.

### Comments From the Floor

A concerned resident asked about certain properties that need to be cleaned up. Board member Jason Jenkins said that he and Aaron Olson are going to talk to certain individuals to let them know about the upcoming community cleanup and that a roll-off container will be available at no charge for April and May.

In other business, the Board:

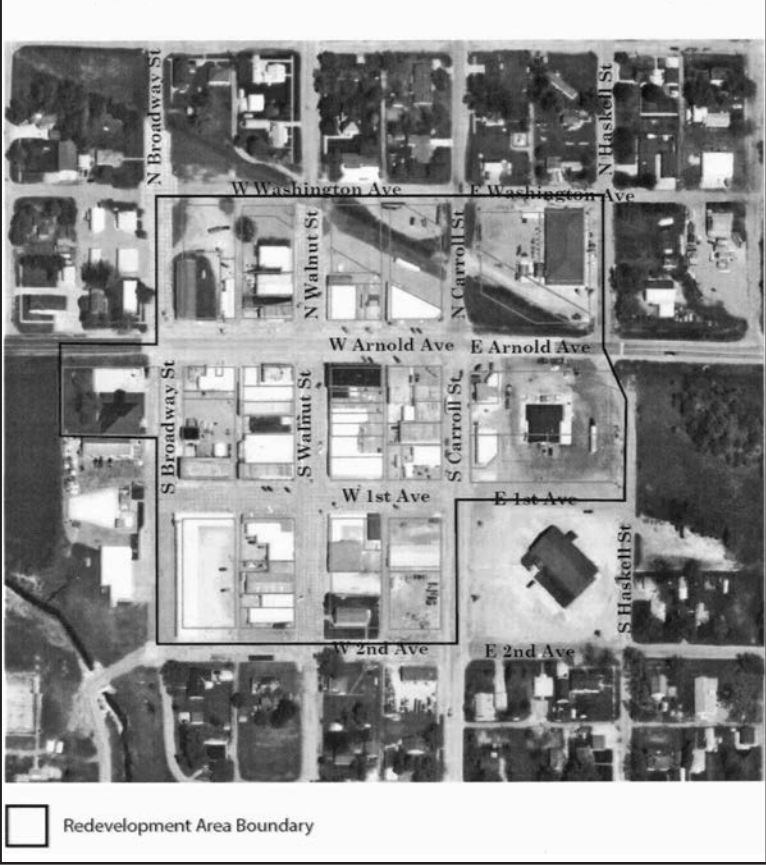
- Voted to contact Nebraska Rural Water Association to conduct a water and sewer rate study.

- Gave permission to the National Honor Society and the National Junior Honor Society to close the street south of the city park on April 1 for the Easter Egg Hunt from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

- Gave permission to the Devil's Den Motorcycle organization to block off the road west of the picnic shelter at the Arnold Recreation Area for the annual rally July 6-9. The organization will pay a fee of \$150.00 to hold the rally on July 7-8.

- Gave permission to the Arnold Golf Association for a

ILLUSTRATION 1  
CONTEXT MAP  
CENTRAL ANALYSIS REDEVELOPMENT AREA  
ARNOLD, NEBRASKA



The above map shows the area of the business district that has been designated as blighted and substandard by the Planning Commission and the Arnold Village Board. The resolutions passed will allow the Village to undertake redevelopment of real estate that is called the Central Analysis Redevelopment Area.

special designated liquor license for the Devil's Den Motorcycle Rally.

- Heard Ethan Furne's update on the total of grants received so far for the ARA lake aerating fountains project. Ethan plans to apply for the Custer County

Tourism grant. Board members agreed to submit a letter of support.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, at 7:00 p.m., at the community center meeting room.

## Arnold High's OLD Team Brings Home Gold from the D-2 State Speech Meet

By Amanda Wehnes

It's their party, and they'll cry if they want to. But the Marvelous Wonderettes - Danah Baldwin, Ella Cool, Riata Remund, Anna Tullis, and Ivy Tullis - are celebrating instead of crying with their shiny gold medals from the NSAA Class

D2 State Speech meet. Their oral interpretation of drama piece - The "Marvelous Wonderettes" - a musical comedy piece following five high school girls as they prepare for their prom and compete for the title of prom queen.

Written by Roger Bean, this comedy full of 50's and 60's

jukebox hits including "Lollipop", "It's My Party" and "Stupid Cupid," was designed to allow each performer to develop their own character and customize the piece to their individual strengths.

"We had a lot of fun getting creative," said Cool. "We created big characters."

All five of the girls are just sophomores and are good friends off the stage, so that only added to the fun for Cool.

"Winning OID was the cherry on top," said Cool. "I got to experience winning with some of my closest friends."

Through the preliminary rounds, the OID team earned perfect marks from all judges. In the finals, all three judges ranked them first with perfect scores.

The OID team again beat out last year's state champion from Potter-Dix. They beat them at districts to earn a gold medal there, too.

Cool, who was the duet acting champion with her sister Regan last year, branched out to try her hand at an individual event, choosing humorous prose and the piece "Matilda." That gamble paid off big for her as she placed third at state.

When asked how different it felt to perform solo, Cool didn't hesitate to give her answer.

"It was my turn to make an awesome performance," she said. "I could be creative and fun and do what I wanted."

Junior Gracie Neth also tried a new event this year, mixing her interest in current events and speech by undertaking extemporaneous speaking. This event is unique in that each

performer doesn't spend the season honing just one performance, but has to deliver a completely different speech each round based upon the topic they draw.

"I love politics and I love talking about politics," she said. "This was a way I could talk about politics and not start fights."

The topics range from economics, international relations, legislation, politics, environmental issues, domestic events, and other topics pulled from that week's news. They are given one hour to research and prepare their speech using an online database full of news and scholarly pieces.

Neth placed fourth at state in extemp. She said the experience of winning a state medal was one she will never forget.

"It's really cool to stand on that big stage with a medal around your neck," she said. "It was a really cool feeling."

Neth also performed her informative speech on Apollo 11 at state. She placed 8th in the preliminary rounds.

Baldwin also advanced to the final round in serious prose, performing the piece "Bella Rose" about a woman with schizophrenia who moved thousands of miles from her

See State Champions, Page 2



Arnold's OID team of Ella Cool, Riata Remund, Ivy Tullis, Anna Tullis, and Danah Baldwin celebrate their 1st place win on stage at the state speech competition held March 17 at Kearney High School. Ella, Danah, and Gracie Neth also received individual medals in their events.

## School Board Accepts Resignation of Principal

School board members accepted the resignation of Principal Chanc McIntosh with regrets at their regular meeting held on March 14. McIntosh has accepted a position as K-12 principal at Anselmo-Merna Public Schools. Superintendent Joel Morgan said the school has been advertising for a new Pre-K-12 principal and applications closed last week.

"Hopefully, by the end of the month we'll have someone

hired," said Mr. Morgan.

In other action items, the board approved the indoor wireless project that will include updates to make sure there is good connectivity within the building. The updates happen about every six years and the E-Rate program covers about 70 percent of the cost with Federal dollars.

Lawn care bids were accepted from Green Acres Lawn Care and Mills Total Kill.