

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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## Village of Arnold Awarded Grant for Rural Workforce Housing Land Development

March 27, 2023 (LINCOLN, NEB.) – The Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) has awarded \$10,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to twelve rural Nebraska communities. The Village of Arnold was among the

awardees, receiving \$222,770.00.

The Rural Workforce Housing Land Development Program was created under LB 1014 to respond to the negative economic impacts of the coronavirus public health emergency. Awarded projects will revitalize communities

that were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic by increasing long-term housing stability.

DED opened applications for the program on November 15, 2022. DED received 27 applications totaling over \$19 million in funding requests.

The funds awarded through

the Rural Workforce Housing Land Development Program will aid communities in their economic recovery from the negative impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency through projects resulting in the preparation of land for workforce housing pursuant to the Nebraska Rural Workforce

Housing Investment Act in conjunction with the Rural Workforce Housing Fund (RWHF) program.

More information on how the grant will be used in the Arnold community will be in an upcoming issue.

## Arnold Community Housing Study Completed Planning Commission Reviews Results

By Janet Larreau

Current and future needs of housing in Arnold were the focus of a Planning Commission meeting held on March 27. Committee members reviewed parts of the 64-page Community Housing Study completed by Hanna-Keelan Associates, P.C., with Keith Carl.

Part of the housing study was compiled by a community-wide opinion survey that was returned by 120 people. A summary of the results of the housing portion of the survey was gone over at the meeting. Survey participants were asked to provide their opinion about a variety of community issues, needs, and opportunities including barriers to obtaining affordable owner or rental housing and specific housing types greatly needed throughout the community.

The city of Arnold, with major employers, also conducted a Workforce Housing Needs Survey to determine the specific renter and owner housing needs of the area's workforce. A total of 47 surveys were returned.

Section 3 of the study provides a Housing Needs Analysis and Target Demand for the community for new housing development programs and activities. The section also identi-

fies the projected housing unit rehabilitation and demolition demand for the Village during the next 10 years.

The population for the Village is projected to remain stable, but experience a slight increase by 2033. The study has found that new and innovative housing development programs will need to be implemented to support projected population growth and ensure safe, decent and affordable housing is provided for both current and new residents. The study also concluded that currently, an owner “vacancy deficiency” exists in Arnold, where homes are neither for sale or rent for a number of reasons.

The greatest challenge for the Village during the next 10 years would be to develop housing units for workforce persons and families, elderly households and special populations. The study provides details on ways to meet the financial needs associated with improved housing.

Arnold Economic Development Director (AEDC) Director Cheryl Carson said the study is a required component when communities seek applicable funding for their housing projects. Applications to funding sources are a competitive process and the study provides the funding entity a current prospective of your communities' condition when they make

prioritized decisions to fund or not fund your community housing projects. Therefore, it was important for Arnold to update this study in preparation for seeking future funding for any housing projects.

“Arnold is not alone, almost all communities – large and small – in our state and nationally face some sort of housing crisis,” said Carson. “Anything

from availability of rentals or for sale homes, the right size or design of homes to fit specific needs, affordability of rentals and homes for sale, quality of homes available/suitable locations for new home construction are among the issues. Arnold had a housing study done before, but studies expire as time moves forward and things change, so it was time to

update our community housing study. The new study will provide statistical and narrative data to help our community evaluate and understand factually what our most current housing picture is. From this study, Arnold will be able to devise a more accurate and targeted plan to move forward for improvement.”

## Arnold Farm Wins National Award in Soybean Yield Contest

St. Louis, March, 31, 2023 - Arnold farm R Cool Ranch was recently honored among the region's highest-producing soybean farmers in the 2022 Asgrow® National Yield Contest. R Cool Ranch won the award with an impressive yield of 93.4 bushels per acre with Asgrow AG27X8 Brand.

“It's exciting to partner with these farmers to help them reach their full yield potential and push performance boundaries,” said Clint Chaffer, Asgrow Brand Manager. “The Asgrow brand takes great pride in leading the way with exclusive genetics not found in any other brand's seed bag, so farmers can continue to innovate for the future.”

Among 55 farmers receiving awards, 17 achieved yields of more than 100 bushels per acre in the 2022 contest. The Asgrow National Yield Contest first debuted in 2012 and encourages farmers to push soybean yield limits. The contest provides farmers the opportunity to innovate and learn more about the latest input technology and management practices for continuing advances in agricultural production.

Asgrow brand soybeans are focused on providing farmers in-



Courtesy Photo

Representing R Cool Ranch, Brock Dailey (right) receives region's highest-producing soybean award from DEKALB Asgrow Brand Lead Dipal Chaudhari.

novative products that offer strong agronomic characteristics and exclusive genetics developed from a global breeding program for maximizing yield and profit potential.

To learn more about maximizing yield performance and see a full list of winners, visit [asgrow.com/YieldContest](https://www.asgrow.com/YieldContest) or contact your local DEKALB Asgrow dealer.



Photo/Debbie Connelly

## Easter Bunny Welcomes Kids to Annual Hunt

Ryatt Shelton high-fives the Easter bunny, as his good friend Dawson Riedel, looks on at the annual Chamber-sponsored Easter Egg Hunt held Saturday at the city park. With kids, their parents and grandparents all showing up, the park was filled with activity. Organizers changed things up a bit this year, with the various age groups forming their starting line on the blocked-off street and racing into the park. Ages 2 & under found their eggs on the right-of-way property to the south of the street. Prizes were awarded to the lucky finders of the gold and silver eggs (see winners on page 8). The Hunt was organized by chairperson Carma Edwards and Junior and Senior National Honor Society members and their sponsor, Debby Moninger.



Courtesy photo

## Promenade Time

With relatives and friends lining the sidewalk, Arnold junior Samantha Wonch and her date, Ethan Arens, stroll along the promenade Saturday evening at Arnold Public Schools. Some 80 Arnold and Callaway juniors and seniors and their dates entered the school's gymnasium, decorated for “Casino Night,” to enjoy dining and dancing in their fine attire. Students changed into their street clothes after the dance for the After-Prom Party held at the community center, where they played games and won prizes into the wee hours of the morning.