

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2024

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120 (USPS 032480) SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS VOLUME 108, NUMBER 04



Fireworks Spark Memories

After taking a dip in the pool and zipping home on their bikes, Braxton Nansel, little sister Madelyn Nansel, and friend Weston McMichael, shoot off multi-colored smoke bombs in the Nansel driveway. The tradition of setting off fireworks on the 4th of July began in Philadelphia on July 4, 1777, during the first organized celebration of Independence Day. Since that time, children and their families have created memories and traditions surrounding the holiday that are carried through the generations. - Debbie Connelly photo

Superintendent Will Serve as Code Enforcement Officer

A decision was made on who should serve as code enforcement officer for the Village of Arnold at a special meeting held on June 24.

The job description and duties of the officer were discussed. The question of, “Will the officer proactively drive around and look for code violations?” was discussed. Board member Donnell DeLosh said that as the employees go about their normal duties, if they see a code violation, they need to inform the officer. It was decided that Village Superintendent Doug DeLaune needs to be the one to meet with the violators and issue the fines.

The clerk will contact the village attorney to draft an ordinance creating the position of Code Enforcement Officer. DeLaune will be appointed as the officer once the ordinance has been adopted.

Discussion was also held on dogs running at large. Board members directed DeLaune to contact Merle Bierman of Bierman Vet Services to see if the Village would be able to impound dogs at his facility.

Furne/Rogers Selected for Nebraska Ag Institute

Ethan Furne and Delaney Rogers were among a record number of high school juniors and seniors from across the state sending out applications to attend the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAYI) this summer. This year, NAYI will be held July 8-12 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s East Campus. NAYI brings to

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Village Board Gives Its Okay to Apply for Hike & Bike Trail Funding

Proposed trail will connect downtown/Old Mill Park to ARA

The Arnold Village Board has given its approval to proceed with applying for a grant to fund a proposed walking trail from Old Mill Park to Arnold Lake, Campground and Recreation Area (ARA).

Arnold Economic Development Director (AEDC) Director Cheryl Carson presented the Hike & Bike Trail project during a special meeting held on June 24. The 0.36 mile trail would connect Arnold’s downtown, baseball fields, and the Arnold Recreation Area.

Funding for the project, with a current estimated cost of \$500,00.00, would come from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) Rural Community Recovery Program (RCRP), which requires a minimum funding request of \$250,000.00. Currently, there is no percent match required for the RCRP grant. Applications for the grant are due July 22, and all funds must be used by September 30, 2026. The notice of award will be sometime in October 2024. Carson emphasized that this is a reimbursement grant funding source. No repayment will be required, if the purpose for the land project never changes. If it would change, then repayment of all funds awarded would be required. Arnold’s application would be based on Installation of Public Features. If funding is received, the Central Nebraska Economic Development District will assist in administration.

“The DED advises applicants to submit proposals for at least \$250,000.00 in grant funds for a project. We can leverage our Edna B. Peterson funds and possibly any land gifting for match funding,” said Carson, who will explore more allowed funding sources through the Nebraska Game and Parks, Lower NRD, Nebraska DOT Alternative Transportation TAP funds, Custer County Tourism, Arnold Foundation, SORC, Nebraska Tourism, CDBG Tourism, and Custer County Foundation, to name a few.

Carson mentioned that the cost could possibly go up to \$750,000.00, depending on any needed changes to a planned bridge or culvert system that will be constructed over the natural spring-fed waterway, inflation of construction materials, and additional estimates which were not available at the time of presentation for land acquisition and fencing.

The proposed trail would utilize land currently owned by the Village of Arnold and Robbi and Shelley Smith, and would be located west of the ball diamond, tree/grass collection site and Village storage. Trees could later be planted to create a natural visual screen. Smiths would transfer ownership of needed land to the Village of Arnold, and the land, measuring 20’ wide x approx. 1450’-1550’ in length, would become part of the Village’s parks system.

Carson went on to give Board members details of how the trail system would be constructed. Fencing on both sides of the trail will be necessary. Surveying will be conducted on the east side to locate where fence placement will need to be, just inside the proposed trail location. The property line will provide base location for measuring off the 20’ wide span and placement of the second fence line on the west side of the trail. A portion of the trail will border two other property owners, so correct placement of the east fence is crucial. A third row of fencing will be added to the far west of the trail, reestablishing the alleyway that currently exists. Future taxation of land would fall under the same rules as all land owned by the Village.

The AD compliant trail will be constructed of poured concrete with a width of 8’ and a depth of 6”, providing ease of maintenance for Village employees, and allowing for use by pedestrians for walking, jogging and running, strollers, pulled wagons, roller blades, roller skates, bicycles, wheelchairs and golf carts. No motorcycles or large motor vehicles that are driven on streets and highways legally and normally would be allowed.

“An Adopt a Rest Location program would give future opportunities for organizations and individuals to help develop the trail features further after the initial installation,” said Carson. “If lighting is to be considered down the road, solar lighting would be preferred. The objective would be to keep the surrounding area as undisturbed as possible, as well as reasonably cost effective.”



Corn looking to be “As High as an Elephant’s Eye”

Fourth generation farmer Brady Weinman checks the progress of his cornfield on June 27. The old adage of “Knee high by the 4th of July” no longer applies with today’s technology. - Courtesy photo

Each spring, the beautiful landscape of the South Loup River changes dramatically, as corn and other grains shoot up through the fertile soil. In days gone by, farmers measured the potential success of a corn crop much differently, hoping it would be “Knee high by the 4th of July.” The old adage no longer applies. Today, U.S. farmers have turned to Rodgers and Hammerstein’s musical “Oklahoma” and the song, “Oh What a Beautiful Morning!” for a new adage: “As high as an elephant’s eye by the 4th of July.”

Brady Weinman, a fourth generation farmer who is walking in the shoes of his father, Darren; grandfather, Glen; and great-grandfather, Paul, was monitoring the growth of his irrigated cornfield north of town, just a week-shy of the 4th of July. At 5’10”, Brady stood by stalks that had grown to his height, and with good luck, would no doubt hit the new farmer’s goal.

“A couple of weeks ago, it was just up to my knees. It’s spot-on for this time of year. Technology and seed corn is just getting better and better,” said the 29-year-old husband and father.

