

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2024

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120 (USPS 032480) SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS VOLUME 108, NUMBER 17

## Past Their Prime

Tree Board’s plan goes into motion

Nine trees were cut down in Arnold’s residential areas last week, as Phase 1 of a joint project between the Village and Rotary went into motion. All of the trees were identified as dead or at risk by the reactivated Arnold Tree Board. Phase II will involve replanting trees. All work is being made possible through a \$15,740.00 Forest Service grant that was recently awarded to the Village.

Tree Board member, Mary Becker, who wrote the grant, said 100 percent of the property owners were very supportive. Once permission was given, Viter Tree Solutions made short work of cut-

ting down the trees, and stumps will be removed this week. Kennedy Nursery & Landscaping will plant, stake and mulch the new trees this fall.

Becker said criteria for identifying the trees that could be removed was in the grant. When replanting, the trees don’t have to be in the exact same spot – just the general vicinity. Through the grant, the nine new trees will be offered to any homeowner who agrees to best practices for watering and mulching.

Following is a list of locations where trees were removed:

Tory Edwards – (front yard) 109 E. Jefferson Ave.



One of the town’s oldest and largest blue spruce trees was felled last Wednesday behind the home of John and Kathy Halstead. Several other trees identified as dead, diseased, or in power lines also came crashing down in a matter of days. - Courtesy photo

Daryl Tickle - (back yard) 509 N Carroll.	Gene Tullis – (pine tree) 704 N. Walnut.	Craig Furne – (front yard) 713 Woodland Drive.	son - (pine, front yard) 105 East 4th Ave.
John Halstead - (blue spruce) 204 N. Walnut.	Lloyd German – (maple, front yard) 713 S Haskell.	Dean and Shirley Lewis – Tim Geiger, spokesper-	Jeff Bowers – (two large pines) – 503 Cedar Street.

## Rotary Working to Increase Awareness of Polio

Purple Pinkie fundraiser set for October 24, downtown

October 24 - World Polio Day is just around the corner. During the month of October, Rotary District 5630 and the Arnold Rotary Club will help to increase awareness of polio and Rotary’s mission to end polio in the world.

**Global Health Impact:** Polio is a highly-contagious disease that can cause lifelong paralysis and death. Eradicating polio protects future generations from this preventable illness. In the early 1950’s, the first successful vaccine was created by U.S. physician Jonas Salk.

**Proven Track Record:** Rotary has worked to

eradicate polio for more than 35 years. Rotary has been instrumental in reducing polio cases by over 99% since 1988. Their partnership with WHO and UNICEF, as well as with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, enhances their effectiveness. Rotary members have contributed more than \$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect nearly 3 billion children in 122 countries from this paralyzing disease. Rotary’s advocacy efforts have played a role in decisions by governments to contribute more than \$10 billion to the effort.

**Where are we now?** Today, polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Unfortunately, the Taliban in Afghanistan have, at least temporarily, suspended vaccination efforts in that country. More recently, polio has surfaced in Gaza. Israel agreed to a series of pauses in fighting in Gaza in September to allow 640,000 young children to be vaccinated, though this is perhaps an overly optimistic goal under the circumstances. These events pose a serious threat to combating the disease and emphasize the need to intensify efforts to fight Polio.

**Cost-Effectiveness:** Immunizing a child against Polio costs less than \$1.00 (about 60 cents).

**Local Fundraiser:** Arnold Rotary will set up their “Purple Pinkie” table at Koubek Gardens from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., Thursday, October 24th, to accept donations. Otherwise, you may contact Buzz Lohmiller, Mary Becker, Kathy Schweitzer or any other Arnold Rotarian to donate. Any amount of money from pennies to dollars will make a significant difference in the fight against Polio. The children of the world will thank you!



Arnold Rotary president Buzz Lohmiller with Taylor Hanna-Miles, who has designed a poster to help increase awareness of polio and Rotary’s Polio-Plus fundraiser. - Courtesy photo

## Board Passes Budget, Tax Request

The Arnold Village Board of Trustees passed a budget of \$2,555,250.00 for fiscal year 2024-2025 at a budget hearing held on September 23. Before passage, Clerk Patricia Lamberty made a presentation outlining the key provisions, and it was noted that the total operating budget will decrease by

approximately 8.78% from last year’s budget. Following the hearing, Board members reconvened for a second hearing, and set the 2024-2025 property tax request at \$129,381.00 – the same property tax request as the prior year. Both the budget and property tax request were adopted that night, and an ordinance

was passed setting the salaries of all Village employees.

In other business, Board members accepted the letter of resignation from Doug DeLaune effective September 30, 2024. Considering the application for village superintendent was the next item. The Board decided to hire a

village employee instead of a superintendent, offering the position of utility employee to Eric Holmberg. Holmberg was at the meeting and said he would let the Board know his decision that week.

Moving on to the next agenda item, the Board voted to advertise for a full-time Village employ-

ee.

Discussion was held on appointing Patricia Lamberty as interim project coordinator. It was decided to continue that discussion at the next scheduled meeting.

The position of zoning administrator – left vacant due to the resignation of Doug DeLaune – was discussed. Board members voted to appoint Mike Harvey as the interim zoning administrator,

provided there is no conflict of interest since he is the chairman of the planning commission.

Both Eric Holmberg’s counter offer to the Village’s offer of employment and appointing Patricia Lamberty as interim project coordinator were considered at a special meeting held on Monday of this week. Both agenda items will be reported on in the *Sentinel* next week.

## Repurposing



With High Plains Fencing owner Casey Connell running the skid steer, Cade Connell unrolls wire fencing on the south side of what is now the pickleball/basketball court on North Carroll Street. The taller fence was repurposed from the old tennis courts at Old Mill Park and surrounds the north, south, and east sides, keeping flying balls inside the court area and out of the road. The Village is planning more updates for the court in the future.

- Debbie Connelly photo

## Junk Jaunt Stop



Nebraska Junk Jaunt vendor Gene Purcell (right) helps an out of town jaunter look over some the treasures he offered at his location at the Legion Hall. The three-day event brought hundreds of people to town to stop at 12 vendor locations in Arnold. License plates were spotted from all over Nebraska, Oklahoma, Utah, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota.

- Debbie Connelly photo