

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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## Arnold Community Foundation Fund Supports Local Projects



Arnold Community Foundation Fund members presented checks to four local organizations as part of matching funds in the recent Give 4 Custer County campaign. The check presentations totaled \$37,287.50 to support these local projects.

(Pictured above) ACFF members present \$20,000 to the Arnold Housing Authority Board garage construction project. Pictured from left are Ed Pearson, Josh Magill, Aaron Coleman, Molly Magill, Rose Bierman, and Ron Cool.

The three remaining check presentations are pictured on page 8.  
- Courtesy photo

## Grant, Rate Increases Discussed at Regular Village Board Meeting

Village Board members approved signing grant agreements and discussed raising rates at their regular meeting held on September 8.

### Forestry Grant

Mary Becker informed the Board that Arnold was awarded an Urban and Community Forestry grant in the amount of \$208,271.00. The grant covers a three-year period starting this fall and will build on the grant the Village received last year. The goal is to plant 130 new trees and remove 58 trees during the three years in the following four areas: Residential, Public Lands, Non-Profits, Business. The vendors who have been chosen to work with the Village are Kennedy Landscape Services LLC out of Gothenburg for new trees, Viter Tree Service out of Brady for tree removal; and Brown Underground of Mullen for the drip system.

Specifically this fall, the goal is to plant 39 trees and remove 22.

“The grant provides for a certified arborist to approve all trees for removal. They must be dead, dying, or dangerous to the public. This grant does not allow for any tree to be removed if it doesn’t fall into these three categories,” said Becker.

After Becker’s presentation, board members voted to sign the necessary grant documents.

### Ordinance Recodification

Board members voted to accept the Ordinance Recodification Proposal from American Legal Publishing at a base cost of \$7,720.00. The process includes incorporating all permanent nature ordinances, creating an index and tables as needed, formatting the pages into a new typestyle, including single column print, and printing complete copies of the entire code book.

After reviewing and discussing the proposed budget for 2025-2026, board members moved on to look at monthly trash rates,

which have remained the same since 2009. Discussion was held on raising the residential rate from \$15.00 to \$17.50 per month, and that would include the use of the roll-off container. It was mentioned the cost for appliances with freon will need to be increased. The Village charges \$20.00 for the appliances, and it costs the Village \$25.00 per appliance at the Custer County Transfer Station.

Discussion was also held on the revenues and expenses of the construction & demolition site. From October 2020 to August 2025, revenue was \$34,267.15 and expenses were \$109,497.51. Of that, \$63,845.00 was for engineering fees due to the major modification of Cell Number 1. Members talked about raising the rates from \$50.00 per ton to \$60.00. C&D site and trash rates will be discussed at the October 13th meeting.

**Upcoming:**  
Village Clerk Patri-

cia Lamberty informed the Board that Tessa Eggleston, Custer County Emergency Management, will attend the special meeting on September 22, regarding the Local Emergency Operations Plan.

### In other business, the Board:

Tabled consideration of the Ordinance Setting Salaries due to only three board members being present. This will be added to the agenda for the special meeting on September 22.

### Comments from the Village Superintendent

Eric Holmberg said that he, Tory Edwards, and Patricia Lamberty met with a representative from Western Area Power Administration on August 19. WAPA’s rates will be going up by 6 percent in January 2026.

For Code enforcement, one warning was issued for Dogs at Large.

## Fall Festival Is This Saturday

Organizers of the Annual Arnold Fall Festival have a great schedule lined up for the one-day event, set for Saturday, September 20.

Arnold Rotary will kick things off with their pancake feed and fun run/walk at the Arnold Recreation Area. Serving of pancakes will be from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., and the fun run/walk will start at 7:30 a.m. with check-in.

Line-up for the parade will be at 10:30 a.m. at the Methodist Church, with the parade starting at 11:00 a.m. The route is the same as last year, starting at the church, turning at West Lincoln Avenue, and going around the city park.

The South Loup 4-H Club will be serving a free-will donation lunch at the park after the parade.

A spider wall and bounce house will be set up at the park, and there will be plenty of fun activities for the kids, including sidewalk chalk art, face painting, and games.

Adults won’t be left out. No one will want to miss the Bobcats vs. Cardinals tug-of-war starting at 1:00, followed by an adult field day and driver’s ed - golf cart style.

Vendors are encouraged to set up on the northwest corner of the park and run-down the west side behind the swings. Vendors are also invited to set up on the Arnold football field for Friday night’s Homecoming football game, and are asked to call the school if interested.

For the full schedule of events, turn to page 8.

## Festival Parade Route



## Village Budget Hearing Set for Sept. 22

The Arnold Village Board of Trustees will hold a Budget Hearing on Monday, September 22, at 7:00 P.M. The proposed budget is \$2,688,480 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. This is a 5% increase in the operating budget from the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Approximately 19% of the budgeted expenditures (\$500,000) is for electricity purchases from Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska and Western Area Power Administration. The Village was awarded a \$208,271.00 Community Forestry Infrastructure Grant from the Nebraska State Arboretum (NSA). This is a three year grant. \$75,000 was budgeted for the Community Forestry Infrastructure Grant Expenses for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. This is a reimbursable grant. The Village applied for a Scrap Tire Collection Grant from the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE) for \$26,500.00. This is also a reimbursable grant.

Capital Improvement Expenditures include:

- \$11,500 - Windows @ Office
- \$75,000 - Park Improvements (Bathrooms at Old Mill Park/Carroll Street Courts Project)
- \$85,000 - Street Improvements
- \$30,000 - Curbs: Downtown Sidewalks
- \$82,500 - Cured In Place Pipe Lining (CIPP) (Sewer System)
- \$20,000 - Installation of (2) New Fire Hydrants
- Capital Outlay Expenditures include:
- \$15,000 - Lawn Mower

- \$40,000 - Side by Side/ Dump Trailer/Snow Pusher
- \$25,600 - Dumpsters
- Some of the other budgeted expenditures include:
- \$150,000 - Transfer from the Electric to the General Fund
- \$131,000 - Operating Supplies/Expense
- \$99,300 - Insurance & Bonds
- \$51,800 - Contract Labor/Materials
- \$35,000 - Street Maintenance – Crack Sealing/Materials
- \$27,500 - Wastewater Plant Expense
- \$25,500 - Professional Fees (Attorney/Auditor/Engineer)
- \$26,000 - Solid Waste Tipping Fees
- \$20,000 - Nuisance Abatement
- \$328,200 dollars has been budgeted for Community Improvement. This money comes from the 1 percent local sales & use tax. The Arnold Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees on how this money is used.

The Village Board will hold a Special Hearing to Set Final Tax Request on September 22, upon the conclusion of the Budget Hearing. The property tax request is \$141,400.00. The proposed property tax rate would be \$0.350436. Last year’s property tax rate was \$0.392348. Property taxes are split between the General and Street Departments. The General includes Parks, Swimming Pool, Community Center and General Government.

## After Discussion, Supervisors Include CC Recycling Center In 25/26 Budget

*Editor’s Note: The following article, written by Jeremy Shipe, appeared on Sandhills Express September 9, and is reprinted here with permission.*

BROKEN BOW— The Custer County Board of Supervisors met in the Courthouse in Broken Bow on Tuesday morning (September 9) in regular session and then came together again in the afternoon for budget appropriation and adoption.

### Future of County Recycling Center considered alongside budget talks

The seating area in the Supervisors room had more space occupied

than normal. Citizens from across the county were in attendance for the discussion about the Custer County Recycling Center and the possibility of its operation being shut down to assist in the County’s budget.

The decision necessary was obvious: keep operating the recycling center or shut it down. Those considering ceasing the center’s operation generally based their side of the argument on dollars and cents and who the responsibility falls on to pay for it. Those opposed to shutting down the recycling center argued that government services to citizens shouldn’t be

operated like a business with profit and loss as the main concern.

“We’re not against it. We’re against the amount of money the county is investing into it,” said Board Chairman Charles (Chip) Blowers. He added that a report he found from the Nebraska Recycling Council in 2021 stated that of 97 incorporated western towns in Nebraska, 55% offered recycling and of those none have programs supported financially by the county. Instead, the financials are covered by cities and trash collectors.

“I feel like this is an undue burden on the property taxpayers in our

county, they’re paying an unfair share. That’s my personal opinion. I think there needs to be an interlocal agreement with the towns or something to cover part of this,” said Blowers. “I know some of the board has strong feelings too, but we’re looking for suggestions, some ways to help fund this without putting it all on our property taxpayers.” Jeff Selden with the Nebraska chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America was asked if it would even be possible for enough money to be found for the program to break even.

See RECYCLING CENTER, Page 2.