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Special Election Set for September 15

Residents will vote on extension of LB840 Plan and 1% Tax

Mark it on your calendar, or tie a string around your finger - whatever you do, remember to get out and vote on September 15.

"Keep Progress Going - Vote Yes Twice" is a message that has been popping up all over town in the last several weeks, as supporters hang signs in business windows, distribute information and post yard signs. The message is an important one, because on Tuesday, September 15, Arnold Village registered voters will go to the polls to decide whether or not to extend Arnold's LB840 Economic Development Plan and 1% local sales and use tax for another 10 years.

Since the plan and tax were originally passed in 2006, money generated from the tax has been used to develop Arnold's website, hire an economic development director and establish an AEDC office building, with both exterior and interior improvements. The money has also been used to advertise and promote businesses and tourism in Arnold, with the AEDC director and board overseeing numerous projects. The director's position includes monitoring the website and helping people post and locate housing.

Thirty-seven business loans have been taken out using

LB840 revolving funds for everything from business start-ups to expansion and new construction. These 37 loans have created or helped retain 26 owners' jobs and 15 employee jobs in Arnold.

With the current plan and tax set to expire in 2016, Arnold Economic Development Board members and supporters have been preparing for the special election for several months now.

"In getting ready for this election, it was amazing to see how the founding economic development board put this together. They had a lot of foresight in seeing how LB840 and the tax would help the community," said AEDC Board President Andrew Tickle.

Tickle said the plan and tax will stay the same at 1%. The board had the option of choosing for residents to vote again on LB840 every 10, 15, 20 or 25 years. They chose 10 so that the plan can be reviewed and adapt to changes in the community.

"I think it's important for the community to know that it is continuing something that is already in place," said Tickle. "It is something that is being shown to work quite well for the community. Being part of the AEDC board the last couple of years, it has made me very proud of what Arnold has done.



Yard signs encouraging residents to vote "Yes" on LB840 on September 15 have been popping up all over town. The special election will decide whether Arnold's economic development plan and 1% sales tax continues for the next 10 years. In the background is Arnold's Winsome Inn - one of several businesses that has benefitted from LB840 loan funds. (Janet Larreau photo)

It is great to see how many other communities statewide are looking up to what Arnold has done so far with LB840. We have one of the highest success

rates with our plan and how it is set up."

Polls will be open at the Arnold Legion Hall on September 15 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00

p.m. In order for LB840 to pass and continue on, a majority of voters must vote yes for both the plan and tax.

They've a Story to Tell

8th in a Series on Arnold's
"Young at Heart"
Residents

By Darlene Rimpley

Why would a couple who had lived in nine different locations - a place as exotic as Tera Ceira, Azores, which is an island just off of Portugal, and traveled to Japan, Argentina, Spain and Germany - decide to settle in Arnold and love it? You will find out as you read about Jack and Cathy Weber.

Jack Weber was born in Merriman, Nebraska, but went to school in Brady and Maxwell when his dad worked at ranching in the area. They also lived for a time on Pawnee Springs Ranch. Jack graduated from Maxwell High School and then went to work ranching. He and three friends decided they would go south with the harvest, but they could not find any crew to hire on with. Needing work (translated to money), they got a job at a lumber camp in Colorado. The three friends thought the work was too hard and left after a short time. Jack stayed on a while, and then he also left, going back to Merriman to work on a ranch, where he stayed for a year.

One night Jack went to a dance in Merriman, where he danced all night with the same girl. After the dance he walked across the hall and asked this cute girl if he could walk her home. This girl, Cathy by name, looked at him and said, "You have a lot of nerve. You dance all night with that one girl and then ask to walk me home?" Jack laughed and replied, "That's my sister." And it really was! Cathy, who was a junior in high school, allowed him to walk her home, and they soon became a couple.

Catherine (pronounced Catha-reen) Simons was born in Valentine and lived in Black Pipe, South Dakota (where her folks had a store), Chadron, Nenzel and then Merriman, where Cathy went to her first two years of high school. She worked at her parent's café, and learned all the ins and outs of hard work. She then attended St. Martin's Academy at Sturgis, South Dakota, for her junior and senior year, where she graduated. She attended

Jack and Cathy Weber travel the world, then settle in Arnold.



Jack and Cathy Weber stand outside of their home in Arnold, where Cathy has shown a "green thumb."

Chadron State College so she could teach school, and taught for a year at Sparks, Nebraska. She then decided to go to beauty college at Hastings.

Jack had joined the United States Air Force in January of 1950, and the couple kept in touch by letter. They were married in Hastings on December 26, 1951. Jack went off to MacDill Air Force Base at Tampa, Florida, and told Cathy to quit school and get down there. And she did!

Every penny counted back then. Cathy told the story of how they went grocery shopping and bought a roast, carrots and potatoes. They put it in the oven, and after a time they heard a loud K-BOOM like the oven exploded. They had food all over the kitchen floor! They carefully picked it all up, cleaned it as best they could, and ate it.

Their first child, Connie, was born while they lived at MacDill. From Tampa, they

moved to Barksdale Air Force Base at Shreveport, Louisiana, where they added a son, David, to their family. They were then sent to Lincoln, Nebraska, for a time, and then to Little Rock, Arkansas. While in Little Rock, Pam, Donna and Mary were born.

Jack was then transferred to the Azores, and after waiting seven months for housing to become available, the family could join him.

Life in the Azores - where they lived from 1960 to 1964 - was very different. The government was a dictatorship, and it was a place that lived in the past. A family of four lived on \$10.00 a month. The Webers had a maid, and she worked for \$10.00 a month, and there was an excellent seamstress who would do a lot of sewing for Cathy for \$15.00. Their fences were made out of rocks piled up, and the streets were all cobblestone. When the men went to church, they wore dress clothes, but no

shoes as they couldn't afford them. A plane flew fresh vegetables onto the island once a week, and Cathy said the line at the commissary on those days started early and was a long one.

There was a six-hour difference in the times between the United States and the Azores, and Jack and Cathy were in a bowling alley in the evening when they heard the news on the radio that President Kennedy had been shot.

Their daughter, Tracy, was born while they were living in Tera Ceira, and when they came back to the states, she had to be naturalized to become a citizen.

When they returned to the United States, Cathy and each of the children had a serviceman assigned to them as their sponsor, and they each had a life vest on. After a time from takeoff, they were told they were at a "point of no return," which was an eerie feeling, Cathy said. After a 14-hour flight, they landed at Dover, Delaware.

Upon their return to the states, they were stationed at Webb Air Force Base at Big Springs, Texas. For the first 10 years of his service, Jack was either in schooling or teaching on the aircraft hydraulic system of a B47 aircraft, and then later went to many locations to teach: Japan, Argentina and Spain, as well as Norton AFB at San Bernardino, California, and Kirtland AFB at Albuquerque, New Mexico. He also went to China Lake to help develop a guidance system for the

Sidewinder missile. He spent time in Thailand as the aircraft mechanic for planes that flew missions into Viet Nam.

During Jack's many trips, the family stayed in Big Springs, Texas, where Cathy had a bar. As it is with service wives, much of the child rearing was left up to Cathy, but Jack had a part when he was home. One time they had bought Connie a bike for her birthday, and she was told she could ride it back and forth on the sidewalk in front of their house. The neighbors had three girls who would keep upsetting Connie on her bike, and she would come into the house crying. Jack finally told her to not cry the next time, but to "just get up and bust the girls!" Connie did! One of the neighbor girls ended up with a bloody nose. Jack had a few words with the neighbor mother, and then it was over.

When Jack was discharged after 21 years in the service, he returned to Brady, and the family - now down to the three youngest children - joined him there where he had a bar. In 1980 the family moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Jack drove for Consolidated Freightway until his retirement.

In 1995 - now empty nesters - they bought a 34-foot, triple slide out camper and enjoyed winters in the south, traveling wherever they wanted to go. On one of their visits to Arnold to see their daughter, Connie, and husband Bob Westbrook, Connie had a list of houses she wanted them to look at to see if she could entice them to move

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"Getting The Point Across"

When leaving Azores while Jack was in the military, Cathy and the children each had a ticket to go on to the Dallas, Texas, airport, but Jack was to be given a seat at the discretion of an officer, who promised that he could also be on the plane. However, when they were ready to board, the officer pointed at many servicemen, but not at Jack. Well, Cathy wasn't going to take that! She told the officer that she had six small children, she had no place to go after they reached Dallas, and no money. She needed Jack with them! Her words got the job done. They took them in a limousine to a nice hotel, and the whole family was on a plane the next morning.