

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

(USPS 032480)

SINGLE COPY: 75 CENTS

VOLUME 104, NUMBER 13



APS Photo

Students (back, from left) Brett Halstead, Shayla Tickle, Carly Gracey, Colbi Smith, Logan Peterson and (front, l-r) Reagan Cool and Faith Bierman, are participating in a new Ag-Bio class offered this year at APS. During the second semester the new SchoolHouse Gardens project will get off the ground.

Students Are Growing Great Things

Ag-Bio, Schoolhouse Gardens Project Added to Science Program

A new science program called Ag-Bio is being offered this year to students at Arnold Public Schools. The class is a mixture of Advanced Biology topics and basic agricultural topics. Students will be studying the traditional biology topics, but learn how they apply to plan and animal sciences.

Since it's an elective and advanced course, there is more time for extra and fun activities that just can't fit into a normal core class schedule. For example, students will be water testing throughout the county, dissecting and using real life drosophila (fruit flies) to document the change in genetics when a new trait is introduced into a population.

During the second semester, the students will be working on the SchoolHouse Gardens project. They will be researching, planting and growing different vegetables and flower plants to sell. They will be running their own business and using the profits to expand the class.

“The new Ag-Bio class will be a great opportunity to start the project. I wanted something to base the class around, something that the kids would be in charge of and learn a lot of real-life experiences from,” said Science teacher Melissa Sandager.

A grant from the John Russell Applegate Foundation provided the funds for the original grow systems, seeds and materials needed. For the project to expand, which is the goal, students will fundraise and sell



APS Photo

Science teacher Melissa Sandager applied for and received a grant for the new course through the John Russell Applegate Foundation.

plants to keep the program going.

“Mr. Morgan and the school and community have been very supportive of the program. Joel has given me freedom for the new class and the SchoolHouse Garden project. The community has been keen on the idea of the student-run business and has already show interest in supporting the students' plant

produce,” said Mrs. Sandager.

One of the many projects for SchoolHouse Gardens is to grow and make flower pot arrangements for Teacher Appreciation Week and Mother's Day. A future goal would be to offer small planters that could be purchased by students or husbands for Mother's Day, as well.

Village Proposes Budget of \$2,552,055 for 2020-2021

Budget hearing set for September 14

The Arnold Village Board of Trustees will hold a Budget Hearing on Monday, September 14, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. The proposed budget is \$2,552,055 for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Approximately 18% of the budgeted expenditures (\$450,000) are for electricity purchases from Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska and Western Area Power Administration. Capital Improvement Expenditures include:

- \$50,000 - Amor Coating - Streets
- \$260,000 - Distribution Voltage Conversion & Rebuilds - Phase V
- \$185,000 - Water Improvements 2020 (Install 6" Water Main on Woodland Drive and West Jefferson)
- \$55,000 - (Install 6" Water Main on 300 Block of South Walnut)
- \$7,850 - New Merry Go Round @ City Park (\$5,310 from Donations/Fundraisers)

Capital Outlay Expenditures include:

- \$17,000 - Pickup
- \$18,000 - John Deere Utility Tractor (Loan Paid in Full)
- \$5,000 - Fogger
- \$20,000 - Boring Machine
- \$35,000 - Sewer Chewer
- Some of the other expenditures include:
- \$42,550 - Professional Fees (Attorney/Auditor/Engineer)
- \$82,400 - Insurance & Bonds
- \$41,450 - Edna B Peterson Fund (Park Improvements)
- \$15,000 - Sewer Main Maintenance
- \$27,300 - Swimming Pool

Sandblast & Paint Project

- \$20,000 - Solid Waste Tipping Fees
- \$20,000 - Wastewater Plant Expense
- \$9,000 - Crack Sealant of Streets
- \$20,000 - Comprehensive Plan/Housing Study

\$159,550 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 at 7:00 p.m. on September 14, 2020. The property tax request is \$103,420.00. This is the same as last year's property tax request. However the valuation decreased by 3%. The 2019 tax rate was .0390542 and the proposed property tax request for 2020 is .400952. This is a 3% increase. Property taxes are split between the General and Street Departments. The General includes Parks, Swimming Pool, Community Center and General Government.

The largest capital improvement budgeted for is \$260,000 for Electrical Upgrades. This includes Phase 5 (the final phase) of the Voltage Conversion & Line Rebuild Project. Phase 1 was completed in fiscal year 2012-2013. Phase 2 was completed in fiscal year 2014-2015. Phase 3 was completed in fiscal year 2016-2017. Phase 4 was completed in fiscal year 2018-2019.

Secretary of State Approves Medical Marijuana Initiative for the Ballot

LINCOLN- Secretary of State Bob Evnen announced today that a sufficient number of valid signatures have been collected on petitions to put the Medical Marijuana Initiative on the ballot.

“After careful review by our counties, I can confirm that the number and distribution of valid signatures submitted on the petitions meet the statutory requirements for placement of the initiative on the November general election ballot,” Evnen said.

At least 122,325 valid signatures were required to add the petition question to the 2020 general election ballot. Signatures of more than five percent of registered voters were collected in 48 of the State's 93 counties. This meets the distribution requirement for counties for an initiative petition.

“Certified letters have been mailed to the sponsors notifying them of the results of the

signature review,” added Evnen.

On August 27, Evnen notified the sponsors and other interested parties that the wording of the ballot initiative was legally sufficient. Evnen reviewed the language of the initiative after receiving a request to withhold the initiative from ballot based on a claim of legal insufficiency. “In determining that the language of the initiative is legally sufficient I did my best to follow the law, and I believe that I have done so,” Evnen commented.

Evnen said that he anticipates that his decision will be reviewed by the Nebraska Supreme Court. “Ultimately, the Supreme Court will decide whether I am correct, and I will comply with the decision of the Court,” Evnen said.

Public hearings will be held in each of the congressional

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Historical Marker Placed at Reed's Food Center



Courtesy photo

Reed's Food Center owners John and Gail Reed are pictured with the new historical marker placed on their building.

A historical marker has been placed at the Reed's Food Center Building - a project of Arnold Rotary, coordinated by Berni Crow. The marker reads as follows:

**Reed's Food Center
Fred Brown Building -
1915**

Reed's Food Center is in the original 1915 building built by Fred Brown, who divided it into two spaces. In the past 105 years, a variety of businesses have occupied the south and north sections of Brown's building. Ben Hardin not only owned the store south (Pinnacle Bank now) of Fred's building, he also owned the land that Brown was building on. (Occupation dates, if known, are listed in front of the businesses (italicized) that have been located in Brown's building.) South Space: 1919-Fred Brown's Arnold Pharmacy followed by John Long and Jennings Stockham's Furniture and Hardware store (sold to Linn and EJ Downing); 1919-1937-Brothers, William and Alva Worrell, came in from

their south table farms to buy Brown's building, opened a hardware store, then leased it to H. R. Proffett and Jud Schoenthal. Mr. and Mrs. Chester McIntyre ran the P&S Funeral Home in the back of the P&S Hardware Store (1926-1928) stating that in two years a record number of deaths (41) had occurred.; 1937-1940-Harold Goings' Hardware; 1940-1941- Robert Spargo bought Goings' stock for his first Hardware store and lived in the back.; 1941- Jack Headly moved his Food Center Grocery from the Vogel building renaming it Jack and Jill. Circa 1964-Delbert Snyder bought the south half of the store for his grocery business. North Space: Circa 1918 Fred Brown's Pharmacy with Arthur Witthuhn as Pharmacist; 1922-1924- Amos and Annie Ervin's Isis Theater; 1924- Used mainly for roller skating; 1925-1938- William Conrad Mercantile; Up to 1947-occupants came and went including Roddy McIsaac's

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