

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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## Polls Will Open for General Election on November 3

A word to the wise: be prepared. Some important decisions will be made in the 2020 General Election. The question of who will serve as the next President of the United States and who will be elected to represent Nebraska in the Senate and in Congress will be on the ballot. Both those who are voting early and those who will be going to the polls on November 3 will decide on several important local and state issues, as well.

Locally, School District #89 patrons will be casting their vote to fill three vacancies on the Board of Education. On the ticket are incumbents Eric Nelson and Duane Bowers and non-incumbents Terence Schacher, Justin Strasburg and Jennifer Dalrymple.

Arnold residents will be casting their vote to fill two vacancies on the Arnold Village Board of Trustees, deciding between non-incumbent Dusty Stutzman and incumbents Glen Bowers and Aaron Olson.

Arnold residents will also decide on the Arnold Lottery Issue, which with a majority of “yes” votes, will allow Keno to be played within the Village limits.

Nebraska voters will be deciding on two proposed amendments and several initiative measures, three of which involve casino gambling, its regulation and distribution of funds.

To help voters make a decision on these issues, *The Sentinel* published two Election Previews in the October 15 and 22 issues, which makes it easier to understand what a yes and no vote will mean on both the proposed amendments and initiatives. A sample ballot was published in the October 22 issue.

Arnold Village, Arnold Rural, and Hayes II will vote at the Legion Hall in Arnold. Polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

County officials and the Secretary of State are taking precautions to protect the safety of voters and poll workers as the number of COVID-19 cases increase in the state.

Due to *The Sentinel's* Monday deadline, election results will not be published until the November 12 issue.

## Halloween Is Coming, Despite COVID-19

The Halloween holiday just won't seem the same without the annual Chamber-sponsored carnival, judging and parade around town - cancelled due to COVID-19 - but there's no doubt kids will be donning their costumes and running from house to house searching for sweet treats this Saturday night. Some residents are busy preparing homemade popcorn balls and stocking up on candy; others might shut their lights off and wait 'til 2021 rolls around to greet the kids.



## Fall Back

Daylight saving time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 1. *Sentinel* readers are reminded to set their clock back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.



Photo Tammy Weinman

Members of the Arnold Volunteer Fire Department are excited to announce that a new ambulance arrived on October 19. With a purchase price of over \$200,000.00, the custom ambulance will serve the community well into the future.

## Steady Financial Planning Results In New Ambulance for Arnold

By Janet Larreau

A new ambulance arrived in Arnold on Monday, October 19, and for a small, rural fire district, it's something to admire. At a cost of \$207,176.00, the purchase of a new ambulance seemed, to some, out of reach.

“I never thought I would see the fire department get another new ambulance in my lifetime,” said veteran EMT Susan Nelson.

The Arnold Rural Fire District (ARFD) board voted to purchase the new four-wheel drive model through Fyr-Tek, Inc., in Gothenburg in March.

Fyr-Tek representative Chad Sitorious met with Fire Chief Eric Nelson, EMS Captain Tammy Weinman and Assistant Rescue Captain Andrew Tickle to start the design process. The four met several times during the planning process.

“We went over every inch of the ambulance to design cabinets, sizes and locations of cabinets, interior colors, countertops, wall color, lighting and flooring. I had always

hoped we would get another new ambulance while I was on the department, and I was excited to get to help with the design,” said Tammy Weinman.

Two graphic design businesses were contacted for the wrap design for the exterior of the ambulance.

“We gave them some ideas and waited to see what they came up with. The fire department voted to have Toxic Graphics in North Platte do the wrap. The design and color is very sharp! We are so happy with how it all turned out,” said Weinman.

When the ambulance arrived, a training was held that night. On October 20, several of the EMTs met and cleaned out the 1999 ambulance, completely stocked the new ambulance with equipment and organized supplies. They also reorganized the 2011 ambulance, which will become the back-up ambulance.

The new ambulance will replace the 1999 ambulance, which will hopefully be sold in the near future. As many rural fire districts struggle with staying afloat, the AVFD considers it a privilege to get a new ambu-

lance. Some of the features on the new ambulance include four-wheel drive, an IV warmer, blue cabinet lighting and a swivel bracket to hold the 12-lead.

Arnold Rural Fire District (ARFD) board member Mitch Geiser stopped by while the new ambulance was being stocked and while discussing the importance of ambulances in rural areas where hospitals are at least 20 minutes away, he said, “This is our hospital.”

### ARFD Board Made It Possible

“We have been saving up our money and putting it aside for several years and with money from the Arnold Hospital District, we built up the funds and could afford to do it,” said ARFD President Don Olson. “When I first got on the board, we tried to buy a new ambulance every five years. At that time, it might have cost \$15,000.00 to buy a new one. They just kept getting higher and higher. The last one was bought in 2010 and it cost less than \$135,000.00.”

The Arnold Hospital Board has always contributed to the purchase of a new ambulance

in the past. That board is now dissolving. ARFD treasurer Harvey Foran said about \$46,000.00 for the purchase of the new ambulance came from the hospital district's remaining funds.

“The Arnold Hospital District doesn't have any purpose anymore. At one time the district had a tax levy and collected money, but they haven't been able to levy taxes for years and years. The only reason they existed was because they had money in the bank. (Board members) kept the hospital district intact,” he said. “They have helped us in the past by putting some of their revenue towards new ambulances. By giving us this money, it will deplete their account. Through the years, the hospital district has been beneficial to the district, paying for about half of new ambulances.”

“The entire fire department is appreciative that the Arnold Rural Fire District continues to update equipment for us, which allows us to give the best care and service to the people of the Arnold community and those in our fire district,” said Weinman.

## 40 Years and Counting... Utility employee part of water line project since the beginning

By Janet Larreau

Time flies when you're having fun. Anyway, that's what Harvey Foran says.

“In some ways, August 15, 1979, seems like yesterday, but it was 41 years ago that I started for the Village of Arnold Utilities,” said Harvey.

From the start to the finish, Harvey has been overseeing a Village project all of these years - and it's almost done.

When Harvey started working for the Village, not all, but most of the water was supplied to the customers through 2-inch water mains. Prior to this time, this was a sufficient supply of water, as people didn't water their lawns much, firefighting equipment was smaller, and the galvanized pipe was in decent shape.

The first major project to upgrade the 2-inch mains happened in the spring of 1980. The Village was laying in new 8-inch main from the old hospital up Haskell Street to the Catholic Church. Mainly due to finances, these upgrades were stretched over 40 years.

“In the years between projects, we were plagued with main leaks not caused by corrosive water, but from reactions in the soil and ground water eating away at the galvanizing and steel. We were tearing up

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Photo/Debbie Connelly

Midlands Contracting employees work on installing one of many new valves on Woodland Drive. This is probably the most time-consuming part of a waterline upgrade project that has been ongoing in the Village of Arnold for some 40 years. “I get a lot of guff that my street is the first to be done, but actually it's the last,” said Village Utility Employee Harvey Foran, who has been involved with the upgrades since 1980.