

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Sentinel photo

Beautiful weather drew many campers to the Arnold Recreation Area over the Labor Day weekend. Hundreds of people choose the ARA as a great location to relax and enjoy nature all through the camping season.

A Choice Spot

Arnold Recreation Area’s improvements draw more campers to Arnold

By Janet Larreau

Google the Arnold Recreation Area and several sites pop up to provide information on this quiet, hidden spot just south of Arnold. The 10 acres of land features a 22-acre lake that offers both warm and cold season fishing, hiking, picnicking, electrical and water hook-ups, and primitive camping.

VisitNebraska.com and the Arnold Economic Development’s websites are just two of the links that draw campers to discover what the ARA has to offer.

Historically, the ARA - then known as the Arnold State Park - was owned and maintained by the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission. The NGPC

planned to make the park a minimum maintenance park. The Arnold Village contacted the Commission and asked if the town could become the owners of the park. Senator Deb Fischer introduced a bill in 2010 in order for the Game & Parks to convey ownership of the park to the Village for public park purposes. On March 17, 2010, the Game & Parks deeded the property to the Village.

The Game & Parks Commission maintained ownership of the lake and continues to this day to stock it with largemouth bass, trout and bluegill. The Village provides maintenance of the park itself.

At the time the town took ownership, the park was pretty primitive, with a few 30 amp spots and outhouses. The Vil-

lage, Arnold organizations, willing volunteers, and the AEDC have made numerous improvements over the years.

Because campers have become larger, there are now 19, 50 amp spots to choose from - 16 have been added in just a two year span and new trees were planted under the supervision of Village Superintendent Doug DeLaune.

From there, the improvement list is long. Campers now enjoy a shower house, two docks, expanded and improved playground facilities, a large covered pavillion, and a sand volleyball court. A new entry sign with landscaping and a sign-in station at the Y were just recently added.

Village Clerk Patricia Lamberty said that from October 2020, up to August 31, some

750-plus people camped at the ARA. Camping fees from October 7, 2019, to September 28, 2020, totaled \$10,079.00. From October 6, 2020, to August 31, 2021, fees totaled \$14,890.00.

DeLaune said the fees are just under what it really costs to operate the park, including mowing, general upkeep of the road, and maintenance of the shower house.

Still, the Village made a wise choice in taking ownership of the park. Hundreds of campers come into town each year to do business - buying supplies, gas, and spending money at local establishments. The economic impact really can’t be measured.

“It’s why the town took over the park. It’s an asset and helps the economy,” said Lamberty.

Village Board to Hold Budget Hearing

The Arnold Village Board of Trustees will hold a budget hearing on Monday, September 20, at 7:00 p.m. The proposed budget is \$2,567,430.00 for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Approximately 18 percent of the budgeted expenditures (\$430,000.00) are for electricity purchases from Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska and Western Area Power Administration.

Capital Improvement Expenditures include:

- \$60,800.00 - Street Improvements
- \$36,200.00 - East 2nd Avenue - Street Improvements
- \$135,530.00 - Install 6” Water Main on Walnut between 2nd & 3rd Ave
- \$60,000.00 Install 8” Sewer Main on Walnut between 2nd & 3rd Ave
- \$78,800.00 Community Center Multipurpose Floor Project

Capital Outlay Expenditures include:

- \$10,000 - Sewer Camera
- Some of the other expenditures include:
- \$43,600.00 - Professional Fees (Attorney/Auditor/Engineer)
- \$81,300.00 - Insurance & Bonds
- \$38,910.00 - Edna B Peterson Fund (Park Improvements)
- \$30,000.00 - Sewer Main Maintenance
- \$18,000 - Solid Waste Tipping Fees
- \$20,000 - Wastewater Plant Expense
- \$7,500.00 - Crack Sealant of Streets
- \$50,000.00 - Comprehensive Plan/Housing Study
- \$160,100.00 - AMI Metering
- \$45,000.00 - Closure Expenses to close Cell No. 2 at the Construction Demolition Site
- \$30,000.00 - Contract Labor - Power Plant Electrical Service Refeed

A sum of \$156,680.00 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.

See Budget Hearing, Page 8

Mills Hardware Plans Celebration

Mills Hardware in Arnold will be celebrating 25 years in business, September 20-25, with something fun planned each day. Special hours (8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) are planned for September 23, when an evening meal will be served. Milwaukee Tool and Gallagher fence representatives will be on site.

Aardvark Hunt Clue Hidden Inside This Issue

As the Arnold Community Fall Festival approaches this weekend, get in on the fun of the Aardvark Hunt by looking inside this issue for the hidden clue. Once you’ve found the clue, there are a few rules when searching for the aardvark:

1. No digging.
 2. Only hunt on public property.
 3. No baiting.
 4. Do not put yourself in peril.
- The finder will win Chamber Bucks presented by Aardvark Hunt sponsor Tiff Varney.

Let’s Go “Old School”

Community Fall Festival Planned for This Weekend



Courtesy photo

(From left) Della Dailey, RT Green, and Robin Dailey, organizers of the Arnold Community Fall Festival, are looking forward to seeing their schedule of fun events play out this weekend.

Robin Dailey was stopping in at businesses a couple of weeks ago, handing out entry forms and encouraging everyone to enter this Saturday’s festival parade. Those extra steps paid off. Her co-organizer, Della Dailey, reported that by September 9, 20 early entries were in their

hands and they were excited, knowing more entrants will just show up and fall in line that morning.

The Arnold Community Fall Festival - scheduled for Friday and Saturday, September 17 and 18 - will be the first community celebration held in

town since 2018, when a different group tried to bring it back.

Relative newcomer RT Green was the catalyst for planning this year’s festival, and with help from his co-organizers and numerous volunteers, a great schedule has been lined up with the theme of “Old

School.”

Events will begin after Friday’s 2:30 p.m. game with Stapleton. All events will be held on the field, including a 4-person fire bucket brigade challenge and other school activities. Superintendent Joel Morgan was downtown last week, encouraging businesses to set up vendor booths.

Saturday’s events will all be held in and around the city park. The first event - starting at 9:00 a.m. - will be an Adult Amateur Cornhole Tournament. The tournament will pause for the parade, with line-up set for 10:30 a.m. at the Methodist Church and start time at 11:00 a.m. The parade route will go south down N Walnut St., west on Lincoln Avenue and around the park, ending with floats parking on village property south of the park. People are reminded not to park vehicles around the city park during the parade for optimal spectator viewing.

A free-will donation barbecue will be served after the parade. Kids will be enjoying a bouncy house, rock wall, mini golf and face painting, and organized kid events - planned by the National Honor Society and Junior High Honor Society - will start at 12:30 p.m.

Golf cart races will begin at 2:15 p.m., and Redneck Olympics will follow.

Everyone is encouraged to dress “old school” and enjoy two days of fun.

To view the complete schedule, please turn to page 6 of this issue.