

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Looking to the future...



Courtesy photos

A larger-than-expected crowd showed up at last Thursday's Community Vision Meeting held at the Arnold Community Center to share their ideas for the future of the town. The event was hosted by the Arnold Community Foundation Fund.

Arnold Community Fund Hosts Two Community Visioning Sessions

The Arnold Community Fund hosted two community visioning sessions last week to help Arnold plan for the future. The first session was held Wednesday evening, March 16, beginning at six o'clock at the Arnold Community Center with 93 in attendance. Participants were engaged, excited and enthusiastic about Arnold's future.

The second session was held Thursday morning at Arnold Public School with most of the 7 through 12 grade students attending. Both groups were asked to "dream big - and think about what future they wanted to create for Arnold." The sessions started with each person sharing their name and one positive word to describe Arnold. The adults shared words like progressive, home, friendly, dedicated, supportive

and innovative, while the students shared words like welcoming, growing and hard working.

To keep the positive vibes going, everyone was asked to share a time when they were most proud to be from Arnold which included - the day I moved home, every day and when people are in need. The Sandhills Open Road Challenge was mentioned numerous times as was the Fall Festival.

Jana Jensen and Denise Garey, Affiliated Fund Coordinators from the Nebraska Community Foundation, conducted both sessions.

"The Arnold adults and students came prepared to get to work, which created a list of potential projects that the Arnold community can focus on," said Jensen.

The adult session resulted in ten focus areas: Medical Facilities, School, Indoor Rec Center, Housing, Historical Museum, Business Development/Economic Development, Library, Outdoor Recreation, Community Entertainment and Downtown Renovation.

The student session resulted in eight focus area: Community Activities, School Additions, Housing, Business Opportunities, Recreational Opportunities, Livestock Entertainment, Infrastructure Improvements and Park Improvements.

"What was really neat is that the students and the adult areas of focus were very similar, confirming that the Arnold students are very interested and engaged in their community. We then asked everyone to

put their name on a sticky note and put it next to the area they would like to help make a difference in. Some of the topics were so full you could not read the topic without moving sticky notes," said Jensen.

For the adults, housing is top priority, along with business development and recreational opportunities. For the students, it was having a greenhouse at the school, followed by recreational opportunities.

Holly Hornung Remund, representing the Arnold Community Fund, spoke to both groups, encouraging them to take action and to make a difference. The Arnold Community Fund will reinvest in the community each year, thanks to the unrestricted endowment fund. These visioning sessions will help the Arnold Commu-

nity Fund Advisory Committee to prioritize their grant making and assist with community projects.

Arnold Public School Superintendent Mr. Joel Morgan was thrilled about how the students were so excited about a greenhouse at the school. Teachers and students will begin exploring options for sizes and types of structures and creating a budget.

Remund said, "Let's get things going on some of these great ideas, so we don't have another meeting like this in five years and we create the same list again. The people that can truly make a difference in their community are those individuals that live, sleep and work there."



Arnold students were very engaged in the Community Vision Meeting held the following morning after the adult meeting. Superintendent Joel Morgan (pictured taking student ideas) said that the students will move forward with one of their ideas - a greenhouse.

Village Board Hears Information on Standby Generators, AMI, and Pickleball Court

At their regular March 14 meeting, Arnold Village Board members were provided information on standby generators, and Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). Joe Hobelman, Utility Asset O&M Specialist with NMPP Energy, provided the information.

Hobelman said that when looking at installing new generation there are multiple options to consider, including the type of units and location. Towns can be emergency only and just supply power to the town, or can be non-emergency and have a capacity contract with MEAN. There is permitting required for new generation and annual reporting that goes along with having generation.

He also talked about AMI, an integrated metering infrastruc-

ture of smart meters, communication networks, and data management systems that enable two-way communication between local electric utilities and customers. Utilities can implement a cost-effective AMI system through the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool's AMI service.

He spoke about the benefits of AMI, and one of those benefits is the elimination of manual meter readings and data entry.

NMPP staff testified in favor of a bill, LB 969, that would provide grant funds for utility AMI projects.

Discussion on standby generators and AMI will continue at future meetings.

Pickleball Courts

Board members also considered converting the tennis courts at Old Mill Park to pick-

leball courts. Pam Long introduced Barb Baldridge, who is a USA Pickleball ambassador for the Great Plains Region. In her presentation, Baldridge said the paddle sport is the fastest growing sport in the U.S.A., and is created for all ages and skill levels.

Board members will discuss converting the tennis courts to pickleball at their next regular meeting.

Zoning Regulations

Also on the agenda was discussion of zoning regulations for fences and whether pallets are allowable to use for fencing material. Village Attorney Mike Borders said that since pallets do not have a finished side which would point to the neighbors, that it is an incompatible use and is not allowed, according to the Village's zoning

regulations, Section 303.59.

Pool Personnel

As authorized at the January meeting, Donnell DeLosh and Aaron Olson hired pool personnel. The following were hired contingent that qualifications are met:

Pool Manager/Water Safety Instructor: Shavonne Schacher.

Assistant Manager (1): Haley Reed and Assistant Manager (2) Kenna Rogers.

Full-time lifeguards: Hannah Burnside, Reagan Cool, Kacee Dvorak, and Charli Vickers. Part-time lifeguards: Danah Baldwin, Jamie Tickle, and Shayla Tickle.

In other business, the Board:

• Voted to donate \$250.00 to the Arnold Fire Department for use of their mobile floodlights on February 20. The money will go towards the AVFD's

fundraiser for a powered ambulance cot.

• Requested that the Village superintendent contact Tri State Paving to get quotes on street improvements for Hillcrest Street between Lincoln Avenue and Madison Avenue, and Cedar Street.

• Was informed that Community Clean Up Day has been set for April 25. Rain date is May 2.

• Was informed that the Village received a check from EMC Insurance Companies for \$24,944.21 for water damage at the community center. Doug DeLaune said that there will be vents installed in the kitchen ceiling and spray foam insulation will be applied on the north wall of the community center.