

# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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## The Impossible Accomplished

Arnold Cemetery website almost lost, but in the end, saved.



Pictured above is an inside page of the Arnold Cemetery website, showing all that can be added to a person's page. The site, which took four years to go live, was almost lost in 2020, but thanks to the generosity of a developer and willing volunteers, it is very close to once again being complete.

By Janet Larreau

It took four years of hard work and fundraising to get the Arnold Cemetery website to go live. The site - considered to be one-of-a-kind - was the brainchild of website designer Kristi Dvorak, owner of KD Agency. If the year 2020 wasn't bad enough, Kristi thought all content of the website would be lost.

"In January 2020, the website platform that I was using for the cemetery site, and most of my other sites I was serving, announced its end of life," she said. "They were bought out by a larger company and shut down this branch of service May 31, 2020. The only option was to move the sites on that

platform to a different one before they were shut down. It was quite a project moving all the websites I had on that platform. Things don't always transfer exactly right. But worst of all, I could not manually get the cemetery site moved in that timeframe. It was too large and to pay someone to move it for me would have cost thousands. There was no way I could come close to affording it, or even trying to raise funds in that timeframe. I was pretty sure all was lost. I had no options."

Kristi spoke with her developer one more time as a last effort to explore any other "outside the box" options. After several conversations, their lead developer offered to move it for Kristi for free.

"They periodically take on

projects that support a good cause, and they like to support their clients in various ways. This was a project that had additional functionality they could use to give their newer teams members some experience beyond a standard build. They actually made the site better than it originally was with added functionality in terms of being able to search and filter through the directory. It was a huge upgrade," said Kristi.

However, to make the move possible, the directory had to be imported from a spreadsheet, which thankfully, was recently updated by David Leach. Kristi had given David (former AEDC intern) Dayna Larreau's old spreadsheets and he started from those.

"He's spent a ton of time

working on it," said Kristi. "You could often find David at the cemetery double checking his information. Importing from a spreadsheet meant that I could only get the basic info on the site. No photos, obits, or comments that people had left on a person's page could be moved. So it's been sitting stagnant since the move because with (daughter) Kacee's senior year and my workload, I was just too overwhelmed to make any progress."

In December of 2021, Dennis and Susan McGuire (the R.E. Allen family) contacted Kristi and offered to help her get the site back up to snuff.

"They have hit the ground running and are already making amazing progress," she said. "Part of this process is getting photos and obituaries back on the site, as well as some other missing info and cross checking information and adding missing people. They are doing an incredible job and we're so blessed to have their talents on board. It's hours upon hours of work."

More photos need to be taken of headstones and Kristi also needs to re-add comments that people had left on the site on a person's page. She also needs to update some other content on the general pages of the site and has some new things to add. In addition, she will need to manually re-add the Powell Canyon Cemetery. It will all take time, but everyone is mov-

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- Kristi Dvorak  
Arnold Cemetery website creator

ing forward and making progress.

"How cool is it that family from R.E. Allen is helping to do this. They already have their plots and stone here in the Arnold Cemetery, even though they don't live here. Susan has helped almost 100 people find their families through research, so they're very well versed in finding information and subscribe to a lot of services and papers. They have almost made it through the whole alphabet now. They have been double and triple checking info," said Kristi.

It's been discovered that quite a few photos of headstones are needed and Kristi has quite a big list that might take some recruiting, but they are getting there.

To view the site, go to [arnold-cemetery-ne.org](http://arnold-cemetery-ne.org).

### Events Postponed

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Arnold Community Foundation Fund Community Vision Meeting, originally scheduled for March 1, has been rescheduled to March 16 at the community center. More details about the meeting will be upcoming.

Due to damage at the community center, Arnold Rotary Club's pancake feed has been rescheduled to March 24 at the community center. Serving will be from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### Chili Cook-off Set for March 5

Several teams will be cooking up their secret recipes at the 33rd Chili Cook-off on Saturday, March 5, at the community center. Prizes will be awarded, and Rascal Martinez will be back to entertain the crowd.

To help pass the time, there will be a cornhole tournament for contestants.

Public serving of chili, potato and chicken noodle soup will be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

St. Agnes Church will be selling pies for dessert.



Courtesy photo

The Arnold Fire Department provided lighting, as Arnold Village and Custer Public Power employees raced to replace a snapped power line and restore power to the town on the evening of February 20. Although power wasn't restored for about six hours after a vehicle collided with the pole, the town was fortunate that night-time temperatures were relatively mild.

## Sheriff's Office Investigates, Reports Who Snapped the Pole

The Custer County Sheriff's Office's investigation of who ran into a utility pole that caused a 6 hour power outage in the entire village on the evening of February 20 resulted in the citation of Clayton Weinman, who was driving the suspect vehicle.

According to a report made by investigating officer Lawrence Stump, Weinman, who was driving a 2000 Dodge Dakota, turned north onto Court Street, swerved in the roadway and impacted the utility pole on the west side of the street causing it to break in half. The vehicle

then left the scene prior to law enforcement's arrival. There was a witness to the accident.

The approximate cost of damage to the utility pole totaled \$3,585.00. Damage to the vehicle was estimated at \$5,000.00.



Photo/Debbie Connelly

## Major Clean-up at CC

Multiple fans were drying out the community center's kitchen area last Friday, after crews were called in to clean up water damage caused by pipes bursting on the morning of Wednesday, February 23. With wind chill temperatures dropping well below freezing that night, Village Superintendent Doug DeLaune said during the morning hours it was discovered that the furnace went into hard lockdown and dropped the temperature. Puro Clean came to town, cleaned up the water, tore out the drywall, and began the drying out process before repairs could be made to the ceiling and walls. Although bad enough, if the pipes would have burst during the night, the damage could have been much worse.