

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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New Director Sets Goals

Courtney Beshaler Evans overseeing Riverview renovations, plans future projects.

By Janet Larreau

A goal was reached towards the end of March, as Ellen Crisp moved into the first newly renovated unit at Riverview Apartments. And now, there are 14 more to go.

Riverview was built in 1980 and the 15 units had become desperately run down due to age and use. In the remaining units that are yet to be updated, there are mismatched cupboards and old flooring. Everything is original from when it was built – even most of the appliances. With that in mind, the Arnold Housing Authority Board made the decision to renovate in 2021.

Riverview is under contract to begin renovation on Unit #4 next, with a projected completion date of 6-8 weeks.

Management of Riverview changed hands a few times since the decision was made, and for Ellen, the wait was long. The new director, Courtney Beshaler Evans, plans on getting the projects done quickly and keeping the units occupied. All units will receive new flooring, appliances, toilets and faucets, light fixtures and fans, closet doors, kitchen cabinets and countertops and sinks.

The plan is to continue renovations as the units become available, or for the next projected renovation, one of the tenants is going to temporarily move into the freshly renovated unit while her remodel is

done, then move back into hers. It will be a bit like playing chess. Some of the units are worse than others. Needless to say, the tenants are happy to have things being updated and taken care of.

Even small changes have been helpful. For example, a request was made for a round table in the social room so that it would be easier to play cards, which happens a lot. It was a simple thing, but made a big difference in the social room.

Courtney purchased two new washers and dryers so that her tenants do not have to pay to do their laundry, and a rolling rack so they can take their hanging clothes out to dry – like a portable clothesline.

The housing authority has been putting bits of money into a special savings account each month for several years to cover the cost of renovations, but obviously more is always needed.

Riverview has a small loan with the USDA that was borrowed in 1986 that is paid on each month. If a way is found to pay that off, that's a few hundred more dollars each month that Courtney could put in the renovation fund. She is looking into grants and donors, as well, for these things. It is vital to pay off this small loan. While there is some money for some renovations saved up, the legalities of what money can be used to pay off the loan and where the money came from gets tricky since it is federally funded. Courtney can accept donations, but she cannot pay it with



Photo/Debbie Connelly

Courtney Beshaler Evans took over as the new director of Riverview Apartments in December. She will oversee the renovations of all 15 units in the future and is looking into funding for a new project, “Riverview East,” where community input would be welcome.

‘saved’ money.

“We were contacted about possibly selling our east lot, but after the community vision meeting, and through my time here at Riverview, we see that there is a great need in this town for more housing,” she said. “I have a waiting list and get calls almost daily from people and agencies seeking housing from all over the area. People want to live here and I really think we need to accommodate that. So that brings me to Riverview East.”

Riverview East is in its infancy. The goal is to expand

Riverview into another building on the east lot. Courtney is still brainstorming and gathering information about just the basics right now, getting information on the legalities, etc. Some ideas are another building where vouchers are accepted, maybe covered parking or garages, mixed housing with 2-3 bedroom units available, assisted living units. The options are endless and Courtney would love community feedback to sort of veer this project in a certain direction. She is planning on searching

for grants and working with the AEDC to get going with funding. She is open to all creative ideas to bring this project to fruition for the town.

Courtney was hired as executive director in December 2021 and is taking her new role in the community seriously. After she heard there was a desperate need for management and help, she reached out to board member Lee Eastburn to ask a few questions and the next thing she knew, she had the keys to the office and the green

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Photo/Debbie Connelly

Conrad Pelster (left) and Mike Harvey (right) were presented their 50-year continuous membership certificates from the American Legion organization last Friday.

Vets Receive 50-Year Legion Membership Certificates

Mike Harvey and Conrad Pelster reached their 50-year continuous Legion memberships and received certificates and pins last Friday morning at the Legion Hall.

Mike was drafted in 1967, had basic training in Fort Benning, Georgia, and advanced training in Fort Ord, California. He went on to take missile training in White Sands, New Mexico. He was sent overseas on January 1, 1968, where he served in the infantry. He returned home in

February of 1969 to finish a college degree that he had started before being drafted.

Conrad was drafted into the service in April of 1970, in Omaha.

“There were several of us from Custer County. We got on the bus that ran from Broken Bow to Grand Island to get to Omaha,” he said.

He took his basic training at Fort Lewis, Washington, near Seattle. From there, he was stationed at the US Military Acad-

emy at West Point, New York, in the maintenance department, where he worked on everything from lawn mowers to tanks, and all kinds of engineering equipment. He had orders to Korea, but those orders were changed, so he continued his service time at West Point. He was discharged in December of 1971.

The community congratulates both of these veterans for reaching this milestone.

Easter Egg Hunt Set for April 9 at City Park

Chamber’s annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held this Saturday, April 9, starting at 11:00 a.m., at the city park. The Easter bunny will be making a special appearance to delight the kids.

Bring a bucket or a bag to gather eggs. There will be a tub to donate eggs back to Chamber if parents desire.

Gold and silver egg prizes will be awarded.

Lacey Kramer is chairing the hunt, with help from the National Honor Society and Junior Honor Society.

A storm date of Saturday, April 16, has been set. Start time will be 11:00 a.m.

Custer County Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Fund

(Custer County, NE) Custer County has been experiencing many devastating grass fires, putting a toll on all the volunteer fire departments in the county. The Custer County Foundation is seeking monetary donations to assist all

Custer County Fire Departments. All donations received by the Foundation will be distributed back, 100%, split equally between all the fire departments in the county. The Custer County Foundation will

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Call Now to Get Your Name on List for Clean-Up Day

April 25th is the annual Community Clean-up Day and everyone’s golden opportunity to have volunteers help them clean up their property.

Volunteers from Rotary, the Village, and the school will be cleaning up not only personal property, but community property, as well. A list will be compiled of all requests for help. Contact Patty Lamberty at the Village office to be added to the list. You may also sign up to be a volunteer.

Legion members will be available to take almost any kind of metal, including aluminum, steel, cast iron, wrought iron and stainless steel. They will also take old batteries. Mike Harvey said the men can bring their trailer to your home to load heavy items with a tractor for the entire month of April by calling him at 848-2550 or cell 308-530-1065 to ask for help. Otherwise, the trailer will be parked at Mike’s shed and you

can place metal items on it at any time during the month. Men will pick up at the curb on April 25th.

The Goodwill truck will not be here this year, but clothing in good condition and household items are accepted at the St. Agnes Thrift Shop.

During the entire month, the Village will provide a roll-off container located near the Village shop.

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Chamber will be serving a free lunch to all volunteers who help with the work. An accurate count of volunteers is needed to have enough food prepared.

A storm date of May 2 has been set.

Don’t miss this opportunity to make Arnold shine.