



JANET LARREAU PHOTO

Jon Trombino, of EA Engineering, Science and Technology, points out a specific area of the Arnold Lake while fielding a question from a resident at the Game and Parks Commission open house held last Thursday at the community center. Residents were encouraged to attend the open house to learn more about the upcoming lake rehabilitation project.

Lake Restoration

Continued from page 1. Commission's Aquatic Habitat Program has applied for and received funds to support aquatic habitat projects across the state and a portion will be used at both Arnold and Victoria Springs lakes.

The project will be out for bids this early spring and will take about six months.

"The best case scenario is to complete the project, let the lake fill back up, freezer over and be ready in the spring," said Mark Porath. "You will see the lake recover quickly after irrigation is over."

The Game and Parks is already capturing fish from the lake. It will be restocked with a base stocking of Bass and Blue Gill, including adults and fingerlings. The issue that is not known is how fast the fish will grow, and people are encouraged to let the Game and Parks get up and started.

The anticipated lifespan after completion of the project will be 40 to 50 years.

Arnold resident Doug Lanham, who attended the meeting and enjoys fishing at the Arnold Lake with his grandkids, said he is proud to see some of the money come back to rural Nebraska.

"EA, as well as the Game and Parks, were very excited about the turn out of this meeting," said Trombino. "Positive support of projects such as these is always much appreciated. This was a very large

turn out for public support when compared to other public open houses we have held."

The open house was not a requirement for any funding.

"EA and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission value input from the community that will be using the lakes. The goal of the project is to provide an improved lake for the fish, as well as the people who use it, and community involvement helps direct our design on the correct path."

Trombino said EA Engineering has worked with the Game and Parks, as well as other entities, on several restoration projects. EA designed the restoration of Memphis Lake SRA near Memphis, Olive Creek near Sprague, Summit Lake near Tekamah and Wagon Trail Lake near Hickman. Along with these Game and Parks lakes, EA has also worked with the Game and Parks in conjunction with the LBBNRD in the Big Indian Lake restoration near Wymore and with the City of Henderson on Henderson Lake. Locally, EA has just finished working with the Game and Parks on the Calamus Fish Hatchery Liner Replacement project near Burwell.

**Advertising
Deadline is
Friday Noon. All
other news is
Monday Noon.**

School Board

Continued from page 1. \$35.00. Lewis said there are grants for start-up costs, and the money can be used to pay a program coordinator to do necessary paperwork.

Lewis said the idea to start the program at Arnold came from board member Duane Bowers, who learned about it at a state school board meeting. She said as many as 20 students might be interested.

"The program originally started for at-risk students, but we are encouraged to open it up to all students," said Lewis.

Principal's Report

Lewis reported that the AEDC is planning a local community career fair for APS students. Junior AEDC member Haley Jacobson is working on organizing the fair with Director Heidi Kulp.

"We're not sure how it will work yet - there might be booths or short presentations by businesses," she said. "It will be good for the kids to see what jobs are available now and what careers are available if they want to stay in the community and have this quality of life."

The school staff Christmas party has been scheduled at the bowling alley for January 21. Invitations will be sent out.

Discussion was held on ideas for compensating the seven teachers who are part of the after-school homework program (SNAP). The teachers are donating about two hours of their time per month to help students with homework after school.

"These people are volunteering to stay and help the kids. It's got to be worth something," said Lewis.

Several ideas for compensation were discussed, and the board and administration seemed to be in agreement that Chamber Bucks might be a nice way to say thank you to the teachers and keep the money in town.

Lewis also reported that NeSA writing will be coming up soon. The test packet has arrived from the state. Eighth and eleventh grades will be on-line and fourth grade is paper-based.

Superintendent's Report

Pat Osmond reported on the three-year asbestos inspection, and reminded board members that the incumbent filing date for the May Primary Election is February 15.

In other business, the board:

- Heard the superintendent's report on the Distance Learning Consortium Participation Review. A recommendation will be made at the next meeting.

- Appointed the superintendent as the authorized representative for Federal Funds.

- Set the next meeting for Thursday, February 9, at 8:00 p.m.

Postal Service to Change Mailing and Shipping Services Prices

Beginning on January 22, 2012, it will cost just a penny more to mail letters to any location in the United States. It will be the first price change for First-Class Mail stamps (Forever stamps) in more than two-and-a-half years. However, customers can continue to mail letters at today's prices by purchasing their Forever stamps before January 22.

"That's why Forever stamps were created, to help consumers ease the transition during price changes," said Arnold Postmaster Ann Griebel. The new single-piece First-Class Mail pricing, effective January 22, 2012, include:

- Letters (1 oz.) - 1-cent increase to 45 cents
- Letters additional ounces - unchanged at 20 cents
- Postcards - 3-cent increase to 32 cents
- Letters to Canada or Mexico (1 oz.) - 5-cent increase to 85 cents
- Letters to other international destinations - 7-cent increase to \$1.05

Prices also will change for other mailing services, including Standard Mail, Periodicals, Package Services and Extra Services. While actual percentage price increases for various products and services varies, the overall average price increase across all mailing services is capped by

law at 2.1 percent, the rate of inflation calculated based on the Consumer Price Index.

New for all customers is a three-month pricing option to rent PO Boxes, perfect for people on the move and others who need a PO Box for a short time period.

"The overall price increase is small and is needed to help address our current financial crisis," said Griebel.

The price of Shipping Services will also change on January 22. The overall price change for all Shipping Services is 4.6 percent, with Priority Mail prices increasing an average of 3.1 percent and Express Mail prices increasing an average of 3.4 percent.

The new Mailing and Shipping Services prices are available at www.usps.com/new-prices.htm.

On January 22, the Postal Service will also introduce a new Express Mail Flat Rate Box. Customers can ship the box for overnight delivery anywhere in the country for one price regardless of weight (up to 70 lbs.). The new flat-rate box is priced at \$39.95. Other Express Mail changes include lower retail prices for half- and one-pound packages and commercial packages to local and close-in areas.

Priority Mail pricing

will offer an average 6.8 percent discount off retail prices for customers using online and other authorized postage payment methods. For commercial and online customers, a new, larger Regional Rate Box C (12"x12"x15") will be added to the existing two sizes.

Also new for 2012 is Package Intercept for commercial mailers, available through a customer interface on *Business Customer Gateway*. For \$10.95 plus Priority Mail postage, customers can request mail be intercepted before final delivery is attempted to the initial delivery address. The shipment can be returned to sender, held for pick up at a Post Office or redirected to an alternate address. Intercepted packages are shipped using Priority Mail.

Prices will also be adjusted for other Shipping Services products and services, including Parcel Select, Parcel Return Service, International Mail, Premium Forwarding Service and Post Office Box Service.

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

Village Board Discusses Electrical Upgrades

Garrett Kline, with Olsson Associates, attended the January 9 meeting of the Arnold Village Board to discuss electrical upgrades. The upgrades are part of a Voltage Conversion Plan to transition the entire system to 12.47 kv. The preliminary cost estimate for the upgrades is \$203,476.50 for 2012 and \$124,075.20 for 2013. One of the reasons for the recent electric rate increases was due to the needed upgrades.

Kline told the board that the vacuum circuit reclosers, costing \$40,000.00, could be delayed until 2013, and the West Jefferson Line could be built by village employees, which would save an estimated \$16,500.00

Board members agreed that it is imperative that the project be started now and completed as scheduled to avoid future electrical problems. They directed Kline to proceed on drawing up a detailed proposal for the upgrades.

AEDC Update

The board was given a monthly update of AEDC activities at their regular board meeting. Director Heidi Kulp said that weekly business advertisements continue on the radio, paid for with LB840 funds. She also

reported that there has been a good response from the business needs assessment survey that was recently sent out, and the AEDC continues to receive good response from people who have real estate for sale or rent. The real estate is listed for free on the Arnold Web site, and Kulp encourages residents to continue to contact her with listings. There is money available for businesses in the revolving loan fund. No loans are currently in process.

The following AEDC officers were recently elected: Buzz Lohmiller - president; Mitch Geiser - vice-president; Helen Cool - secretary; and Heather Hagler - treasurer.

Special Licenses Approved

The board considered and approved three applications for Special Designated Licenses from Cedar Hills Vineyard, 17 Ranch Winery and Suzy's Pizza Pub & Grill. All three applications are associated with the upcoming "Kegs & Corks" event on February 11 at the community center.

AEDC Appointment
The board appointed Sandy Hicks to the Arnold Economic Development Board. Buzz Lohmiller, AEDC

president, highly recommended Hicks to the board, saying she has a good business background and is active in the community.

In current business, the board:

- Voted to send a letter in support of the new irrigated acres in the Wellhead Protection Area.

- Heard an update on the bathroom/shower facility at the Arnold Recreation Area. The facility is getting closer to being finished.

- Considered sending a letter to Lower Loup NRD regarding new irrigated acres in the Village's Wellhead Protection Area.

- Discussed an alternative to trucks parking on side streets.

- Heard Superintendent Moser's report that a vendor has been found, and \$1,400.00 has been taken in from old transformers.

Deadline for Report Cards

The deadline to submit second quarter report cards for the "R is for Recognition" drawing at Pinnacle Bank is January 26. All students are encouraged to turn in their report cards for a chance to be drawn.

Phone News Items to 848-2511.

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THE ARNOLD SENTINEL

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Community Calendar

JANUARY 19 - Rotary Club meeting, Cardinal Inn, 6:30 p.m.
JANUARY 23 - Fibromyalgia support group meeting, JMMMC telemedicine area, 3:00 p.m.
JANUARY 24 - Bible study and fellowship, Riverview, 2:00 p.m.; Domestic Abuse Crisis Center Support Group, 2:30 p.m., 425 S 7th, Broken Bow.

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