

Talk of the Town

City of Victoria
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New eatery to open August 19



New owner Brooke Olson and her helpers Maybelle, Emily and Morgan have been working hard to prepare for opening day. Their new establishment is located at the site of the old Gambino's.

When the new eatery in Victoria opens on August 19, customers will be able to get a .35 cup of coffee, a variety of baked goods including chocolate croissants, donuts, breads, pie by the slice and even a bottle of vanilla extract, made by the proprietor Brooke Olson.

The new establishment called Fork That Bakery is located at the site of the former Gambino's. Olson took ownership in May and since then, she and her family have been hard at work preparing for the grand opening. Olson says the name has raised some questions: she chose it because one of her hobbies is making jewelry from silverware. She says many call her the 'forking queen.'

In the beginning, she plans to be open five days a week from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Being open over the noon hour means she will have menu items for lunch including deli sandwiches and at least one special of the day. Looking forward, as she is able to assess the overall success as well as the wishes of the community, she hopes to extend hours and offer patio dining and more.

The bakery has a Facebook page which she hopes people will visit and 'like' and Olson is in the process of getting her website up and running. She sees that as an important key to managing online orders, anticipating when the holidays arrive

many will want to order their holiday breads and pies in advance.

Olson says she has already had a great deal of community interest and support, including a donation from the local VFW of 150 place settings of dishes, which she was thrilled to receive.

Olson and her husband live in Gorham and are the parents of eight; in her 'spare' time she homeschools the youngest six. Her oldest daughter is headed to college in the fall.

"We have been embraced by the community," she says with a smile, "and we're really excited to be here."

At this time, all the necessary licenses and certificates have been secured except for a visit from the fire marshal who will determine seating capacity.



There will be an informational meeting Tuesday, Aug. 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the VFW regarding the Cathedral Street project set for 2022. Project engineers will be present to explain what will be involved. All residents who live on Cathedral St. are strongly encouraged to attend.

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Patrol Officer: Ryan Mauch

Fire Chief: Tom Tholen

Assistant Fire Chief: John Weber

Happy Labor Day — Trash pickup will be Tuesday, Sept. 7



Construction of the new water tower is nearly complete and crews will soon begin filling the tower. The new tower holds 150,000 gallons and is taller than the old one by 33 feet. This increased height will improve water pressure in town by 14 psi; pressure will now typically range from 60-75 psi. The pressure will be increased slowly to avoid shocking existing piping and plumbing systems. However, if your household experiences any problems with this, you will need to contact a licensed plumber rather than City Hall.

A reminder that all watering should be done before 10:00 a.m or after 7:00 p.m. Residents south of 10th St. may water their lawns on Tuesdays; those north of 10th may water on Thursdays.

Shrubs and flowers may be watered any day during the appropriate times. Likewise, the washing of cars is allowed during those times.

Johnson receives Grammy nomination

For the second time in his seven years with the district, music instructor Luke Johnson has been named a quarterfinalist for the Music Educator Award presented by the Grammy Museum.

He is among 219 teachers from 204 cities. The semifinalists will be announced in September.

The award was established to recognize current educators who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education.

Johnson has left Victoria and taken a job in Ingalls, Kansas. He taught K-5 vocal music, 6th grade beginner band, and a combination jr/sr high school band.



FYI \$3,594.15

That is the amount the City spent for this year's spring cleanup.

Volunteers Needed!

The Victoria Volunteer Fire Department is currently in need of volunteers. If you are interested in signing up, please contact City Hall at 735-2259.

Council meetings moved

With the loosening of mask mandates and social distancing practices, the Victoria City Council has resumed conducting its monthly meetings at City Hall effective July 19. Council meetings are held the third Monday of the month beginning at 5:30 p.m. and the public is welcome to attend.

Since our last newsletter, 12 homes have sold in Victoria, 8 new renters have found a place and 24 roofing permits have been issued.



Holly Ray, the Outreach Coordinator for the Hays Public Library sets out the welcome sign to greet library patrons during her bi-monthly visits.

The Hays Public Library's bookmobile is cruising to Victoria twice a month! The bookmobile is full of books, DVDs, and Blu-rays for all ages. It is also a Wi-Fi hotspot, and you can sign up for a library card on the bookmobile. Items you have checked out can be returned to the bookmobile. If you can't find a specific title or author, just ask, and the bookmobile may be able to bring your request on its next visit. You also can place items on hold through the library's catalog and select that you want to pick them up on the bookmobile. The bookmobile will be at the Victoria City Park/Pool **on the first and third Friday of the month** through July and August. For more information and the schedule visit hayslibrary.org.

The project to remodel the Hays Public Library is finished and the library is back to normal operating hours after more than a year of remodel and COVID-19 limitations. The remodel focused on the first and second floors, creating new seating areas, meeting rooms, a business center, and a play area for young children.

Residents of Victoria and the surrounding area are eligible for a free Hays Public Library card. The physical collection contains over 100,000 books, movies, games, and more. A robust digital collection also allows cardholders to enjoy books, audiobooks, movies, and more on their digital devices free of charge. Visit the bookmobile or the library in downtown Hays to get a card, access materials, or learn more.

Brandon Hines, Library Director

Yay for our lifeguards!

Here's to the crew that kept the pool operating smoothly and safely. A big thank you to manager Karen Nowak, Landon Clark, Morgan Staab, Valerie Dome, Brooklyn Nowak, Kiley Schmidtberger, Audrey Staab, Macy Hammerschmidt, Kassi Weber, Kaitlyn Windholz, and Kali Weber!



St. Fidelis News

Again this summer, Victoria kiddos can find a tasty lunch and enjoy time with their friends every weekday at the Parish Activity Center. The lunch program, fully funded by donations, is a happy thing for both the youngsters and the volunteers who make it happen.

Unlike last year when the meals were carryout only, this year the meal site is open and welcoming to all who come. Sometimes parents come as well as visitors from outside Victoria who may be staying with relatives or friends in the community.

The program has no shortage of kitchen help. Jan Brungardt, parish secretary, oversees the project. The roster of volunteers includes Anita Braun, Darlene Braun, Tina Braun, Delilah Brungardt, Kathy Kuhn, Carol Pfeifer, Shirley Pfeifer, Louise Robben, Edna Rupp, Jerry Schmidtberger and Rick Comenero.

When the menu calls for grilling, parish employees Randy Leiker and Kenny Pfeifer **put on their aprons and grab their spatulas.** **"We never lack for help,"** observed Pastor Jim Mosier.

Fr. Jim often joins the kids for lunch allowing him to get to know them and vice versa. When the kids are finished, the staff enjoys fellowship and lunch together as well.

The staff has to be prepared for a fluctuation in numbers. Most days the numbers might be about 40, but during the week of Vacation Bible School, they served upwards to 100.

"This program has renewed my faith in the youth of our community, Schmidtberger commented. "From day one, the kids have been very polite and appreciative. From little ones to high school age, we always get a hearty thank you."

HERZOGFEST VICTORIA, KS

After a year's hiatus, the annual Herzogfest is back! This year's festival will be a one-day event, starting at 8:00 a.m. Saturday, August 14. First thing will be the color run. Booths with the traditional German foods will be manned by area church groups and events for the kids will include face painting, bouncy houses, and games.

The Lady Knights' volleyball team is sponsoring a 4-on-4 volleyball tournament. Two males will be the allowed maximum per team. Sign-up deadline will be 12:30 and play will begin at 1:00 p.m.

The Polka Mass is set for 4:00 p.m.

This year's concerts will start at 7:00 p.m. and feature the Read Southhall Band from Stillwater, Oklahoma. The group is comprised of four native Oklahomans that feature vocalist and rhythm guitarist, drums, bass, and lead guitarist and harmonica player. Their music is available on YouTube and **Spotify.** **The group's album Six String Sorrow** has accumulated 8 million streams in three years.

The other featured entertainer is Lukas Maddy and the Kansas Cartel, who bill themselves as an original hard-rocking country band whose music can be found on iTunes and Amazon.

Thank you, Flower People!



From late spring on, some of our residents have shared their time and talents to enhance our City with a variety of flowers of their choosing. Thank you, Kris Dinkel, Sheena Gagnon, Kristen Mauch & Mya, the Ryan Lichter family, Katie Leikam & Dax, Chelsea Leiker & girls, Joel & Camille Mueller, Ilona Patterson, Karen Sander, the Kent Schmeidler family, Andrea Schmidtberger & girls, Andrea Ottley, the Jeremy Sterling family, the Jamie Sterling family, Michelle Geist & granddaughters, Leroy & LeeAnn Schmidtberger, the Sean Rodger family, Peggy Wohler & her daycare, Jerry Schmidtberger, and Sabina Hoffman. Your efforts are appreciated!



SCHOOLHOUSE NEWS



Members of the **Victoria FFA** spent their Wednesday noon hours during harvest serving farmers lunch at the Co-Op as a fundraiser to assist them in building their greenhouse. The group is sponsored by Jacy Klaus.



Boys basketball players and their parents as well as Coach Colin Schmidtberger rolled in the dough during their fundraiser, making 200 dozen bierocks. The money raised will be used for equipment and camps in the future.



Tennis coach Kaylene Gabel, with the help of her tennis team, conducted a **one-week tennis camp** that drew 29 participants in three age groups: K-2, 3-5, 6-8.



Lady Knights' volleyball coach Sarah Nuss and her assistant Kim Nowak held an evening camp for interested participants the week of July 12. The camp ran in two sessions: grades 3-8 with 23 attendees from 6:00-7:00 and high schoolers from 7:00-9:00 with 18 girls.



During the last week of classes before vacation, **high school art** students under the direction of their instructor Kaylene Gabel spent their time at the City pool painting images in the baby pool area to give it a more kid-friendly feeling. According to pool manager Karen Nowak, this will become an annual event.



Coach Doug Oberle reports that members of the **Knights' football team** rise and shine early to participate in the strength and conditioning program Mondays-Thursdays from 6:00 a.m. to 7:15. Their summer camp was held from July 13-16.



Once again, two teams of FCCLA presenters excelled at the annual national competition held this year in Nashville.

Bringing home gold for their Food Innovations Level 3 presentation were Kassi Weber, Melany Huser and Kaitlyn Windholz with a score of 96.66 out of 100!

Earning silver with a score of 87.33 were Jasmin Miller and Jadyn Peterson for their Food Innovations Level 2 project

In addition, the peer ed team of Kassi Weber, Melany Huser and Levi Huser introduced their workshop on Financial Fitness at the Kansas state meeting.

Sponsor Connie Braun expressed her pride in her students' efforts.



New Teachers

When school opens later this month, four new instructors will be at their posts to welcome their students.

Max Befort will spend his days in two buildings teaching vocal music to K-5 students and instrumental music to 6th grade students and the combined jr/sr high school band.

Kelby Parton will be found in the high school shop teaching Industrial Technology.

Ashley (Dome) Urban will return to her alma mater as pre-school teacher and interventionist.

Brooklyn Walker will spend her days as the new kindergarten teacher.



Ready! New administrators Deena Clark, elementary principal, and Kim Wolf, superintendent and jr/sr high principal, are at their posts preparing to welcome students and staff for the 2021-22 school year. Board President Tammy Lichter has helped orient them for their new positions.