

Talk of the Town



City of Victoria
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Following years of planning, the City's new water tower is nearing completion adding a new dimension to the Victoria skyline.

The final paint job and logo are all that remain to call it a finished project.

City acquires new police vehicle

Purchasing a new vehicle is a significant investment whether it be for a family or an organization. After eight years of reliable service, the City's 2013 Charger has been replaced. According to Police Chief Cole Dinkel, the normal term of service is six years, but the Charger lasted beyond that because it continued to be reliable.

The new vehicle is a 2020 Durango that was in stock and offered at a discounted price, in addition to the City receiving \$7,000 in trade-in. The Durango is all-wheel drive and equipped with a Police Pursuit Package. Benefits of this SUV include it being cleaner, and having better equipment storage as well as being safer and more capable in snow and icy conditions.

Compatible equipment from the Charger was transitioned to the Durango while some equipment had to be purchased new due to age and condition and also compatibility.



February 15 trash will be picked up as usual.

City Officials

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City Council

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City Clerk: Mary Pfeifer

Utilities Clerk: Nancy Piatt

City Treasurer: Jerry

Schmidtberger

City Superintendent:

Brad Schmidtberger

Public Works Assistant:

Terry Riedel

Jeff Dorzweiler

Police Chief: Cole Dinkel

Patrol Officer: Ryan Mauch

Fire Chief: Tom Tholen

Assistant Fire Chief: John Weber

Victoria's Golden Rule Clinic is seeing patients during regular hours on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:00 to 4:00 p.m. Nurse practitioner Jamie Schneider says she will also accommodate patients if needed on the other weekdays if they give her a call to make arrangements.



Her contact number is 785 623.3840.



Time to Renew

Pet tags for 2021 **are now available at City Hall. All dogs and cats need one. Cost is \$2.00 for spayed/neutered pets and \$5.00 otherwise. Proof of current rabies vaccination is required when renewing. Deadline is March 1.**

ATV tags for 2021 **are also available. Cost is \$25 and proof of current insurance is needed.**



Sewer averaging **for the next year is figured on customers' consumption during the months of December through March. The new rates will be reflected on May bills.**



Snow removal **is the property owner's responsibility within 12 hours after a snow or ice storm. This is required by City Ordinance.**



The Hays Bookmobile has had to discontinue its visits until further notice due to COVID concerns. When we are notified that they are resuming their schedule, we will get it on our Facebook page.

Thank You!

As a City, we are fortunate to have many citizens willing to donate their time to committees that benefit us all. Here they are:

Zoning Board

- Dennis Dreiling
- Randy Leiker
- Jason Robben
- Jane Wagner
- Julius Windholz

Rec Commission

- Sharon Bleske
- Darian Dinkel
- Tammy Lichter
- Marla Robben
- Kaylee Robben
- Sean Rodger
- Jacque Schmidt

Housing Board

- Jeff Hertel
- Dale Kisner
- Katie Leikam
- Kathy Pfeifer
- Bob Piatt



Because of COVID and the need for social distancing, Victoria City Council meetings are now being held at the VFW. They meet on the third Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

My husband purchased a world map and then gave me a **dart and said, "Throw this and wherever it lands—that's where I'm taking you when this pandemic ends." Turns out, we're spending two weeks behind the fridge.**



The World Health Organization announced that dogs cannot contract COVID-19. Dogs previously held in quarantine can now be released. To be clear, WHO let the dogs out.



Victoria Thrift Store— fun for shoppers and workers

The Victoria Thrift Store has been a part of the community since 2013. For anyone who likes bargains, this is a one-stop shopping opportunity. Operated by the St. Fidelis Parish, it has outgrown three prior locations and has something for everyone.

Staffed entirely by volunteers, the project has several missions: helping others in need, recycling gently used items, and providing a place for its volunteers to enjoy a social workplace that benefits all. Co-founder Jan Brungardt says that some of the proceeds from the store have enabled the parish to also help with gas vouchers, utility bills and rent assistance for people in the tri-parish area when needed.

Beyond the usual clothing and shoes and housewares, there are books, CDs and DVDs, games, toys, curtains and bedding, luggage and even a craft nook. Anyone looking for Knights/Squires attire will find many options. Volunteer Joyce Sander says they have a play corner for little ones to be entertained while their parents shop. In a separate storage unit, they have furniture items such as headboards, entertainment centers, recliners and more.

Word about the store has been spread on Facebook and advertising on Nex-Tech classifieds. Millie Windholz remarked that they have some 'regulars' who travel from Russell, Hays, Waldo, Osborne and Ellis.

For the volunteers, part of the fun of working is seeing some of the unusual things people donate— everything from sheet music to tutus and a mouse collection that consisted of over 100 different items. They have fun dressing mannequins, trying on hats and modeling things for each other. They enjoy occasions when they share a meal and compare notes with other volunteers. The work schedule is arranged so that each team has a regular day for work.

The list of volunteers includes the following: Jeanie Brungardt, Darlene Braun, Darlinea Dinkel, Geraldine Kindel, Rosie Kreutzer. Tina Kuhn, Connie Quint, Louis Robben, Bob and Phyllis Stramel, Wilma VonLintel and Arlene Wittman.

From the viewpoint of the shopper, the worker or the recipient of funds, this little shop is a Win/Win for everyone.



The Herzogfest Committee is already hard at work planning for this summer's festival set for August 13 and 14!

We had a successful holiday lighting event on Dec. 3 and want to thank all of those who came out to celebrate with us.

In addition to that event, we also had a 'Best Dressed House Contest.' First place went to Eric and Sandy McAlonan, second place to Ryan and Tammy Lichter, and third place to Karen Nowak.

We have set Feb. 7 as the raffle date for the Ranger. Be sure to get your tickets from any committee member.

We also ran the Hays ice rink in early January as an additional fundraiser.

As always, if you would like to join the fun by helping out on our committee, please contact Ashley at 785 639.0788. Follow our Facebook page for the latest happenings and announcements regarding other events through out the year.

A big thank you to our committee members:

Ashley Kanzenbach, president, Jordan Robben, vice president, Kayla Stephens, treasurer, Ashley Wellbrock, secretary, Brenton Hoffman, Jennifer Pfeifer, Hayley Gagnon, Bill Leikam and Katie Roth.



Thanks to an application made by VES third grade teacher Brittany Dannels, the school district received a check for \$500, which will be used for playground improvements. Dannels nominated fellow teachers Shelly Huser and Jessica Lang for their work dealing with extra duties during COVID and **this was the organization's way of recognizing them.**

SCHOOLHOUSE NEWS



From Tammy Lichter, School Board President

As we begin 2021, I wanted to share the changes that have taken place in our school district. Although the start of our year was unlike any other, our staff and students met the challenges head on. In the beginning, there were several concerns that had to be met. We were able to split several classrooms into smaller classes at the grade school for social distancing. At the junior high/high school, several teachers moved into larger spaces to allow students to social distance. I want to give a shout out of appreciation to all the staff for their hard work and dedication.

The elevator at the elementary school has been in the works for quite some time. While we hoped the project would be finished before school started, Mother Nature had other plans. In June, rain and wet ground made it almost impossible for the construction crew. And then they hit a foundation from a previous building which had to be removed. While it took longer than was expected, it should be ready for use by February. It's a great addition that will allow us to be ADA compliant.

The final change will be taking place in 2021 is new leadership for our district. Mr. Michel has resigned effective at the end of the school year. We have begun the search for his replacement. Since he turned in his resignation very early, this allowed us to begin our search early. The Board has been working with KASB to search for a new candidate. Dr. Brian Jordan from KASB has met with a committee of teachers and another of community members to determine what is important to our district. From this information he will examine the applications and recommend 3-4 candidates for interviews. Due to COVID, we will not be able to hold meet-and-greets as were offered in the past; however, we will announce the candidates the day of their interviews on Twitter, SeeSaw and the school website. We hope the candidates will submit a short video of themselves for the community. We hope to have our new superintendent by the end of February.

While all of these changes are taking place, the one thing that isn't changing is dedication of everyone in the district to help our young people be the best they can be!

FCCLA Despite COVID, FCCLA members have been busy with activities both new and old. One new project was collecting needed items for foster children. They also conducted their annual canned food drive for the food bank and clothes for the needy. Instead of the Christmas banquet, they **held a 'Christmas Celebration,'** socially distanced and masked but fun for all who attended. Pen Pal letters between high school and elementary students was another new activity.



VHS recently received a generous grant from the Heartland Community Foundation. Principal Dylan Dronberger, along with district art Kaylene Gabel, sought the grant in hopes of expanding the art curriculum with new technology and equipment. The Graphtec Vinyl Plotter and accessories will create possibilities for students to learn through real world problem solving, production, and commercial art. From concept to completion, the students will be able to complete various vinyl projects that benefit learning and the district as a whole.