



Talk of the Town



City of Victoria

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www.victoriaks.com

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Simons Tax & Accounting open for business



New owner Derek Gerstner (back) is excited about the prospects of building his business with colleagues Paul Lang and Nicole Hartman.

While the name on the office door now reads Simons Tax & Accounting, the legacy of Allen Dreiling as the prior owner remains a definite part of the new business. New owner Derek Gerstner says one of his goals in purchasing the firm was to 'keep the traditions' that Dreiling and long-time employee Paul Lang built over the years. Gerstner officially took over in early November. In addition to the services Dreiling provided his clients, Gerstner says they now will add some new things on the investment side.

Reasons for wanting to become a part of the Victoria business community include the fact that his family has ties to the community and that he was very familiar with the work Dreiling and Lang were known for. Years ago, when they moved to electronic processing, Gerstner was the computer guy who got them up and going. He says the relationship they

built and knowledge they shared were definitely important factors. Gerstner, who is a certified financial planner, attained his education at Fort Hays and then Kansas State. After completing an internship in the Kansas City area, he says he knew he was 'a small town boy' and came back to be a part of the family business run by his step-father in Hays.

In addition to himself and Lang, the office is now staffed by Nicole Hartman, who works full time, and Cora Ryan, who continues to work during tax season.

Dreiling's existing clients were contacted by letter and invited to a 'meet and greet' in December with the intention they would become acquainted with Gerstner and feel the continuity in the business. Gerstner is also hopeful that new potential clients will give them a try. 'I am so excited to be here' he commented, 'and looking forward to being part of this great community.'

Save the date! The community--wide garage sale is set for Saturday, April 29. Dumpsters will also be available that weekend. Fri. 4-8, Sat. 9-8. Sun. 9-4.
If wanting to advertise your sale, contact City Hall no later than April 14.

City Officials

Mayor

Jerry Kanzenbach
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City Council

Jerry Brungardt
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Erica Dinges
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City Clerk: Mary Pfeifer

Utilities Clerk: Nancy Piatt

City Superintendent:

Brad Schmidtberger

Public Works Assistants:

Jacob Nuss

Terry Riedel

Police Chief: Cole Dinkel

Patrol Officer: Ryan Mauch

Calendar of Events

February



- 2—Ground Hog Day
- 5—Super Bowl
- 12—Lincoln’s Birthday
- 13—School Board Meeting (7:30)
- 14 — Happy Valentine’s Day!
- 20—City Council Meeting (5:30)
- 20 — Presidents’ Day



March

- 1—Ash Wednesday
- 12—Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 13—School Board Meeting (7:30)
- 17 — Happy St. Patrick’s Day
- 20—City Council Meeting (5:30)
- 20-24 —Spring Break

April



- 1—April Fool’s Day
- 9—Palm Sunday
- 10—School Board Meeting (7:30)
- 14—Good Friday (City Hall Closed)
- 16 — Happy Easter!
- 17—City Council Meeting (5:30)

St. Fidelis News

The Tri-Parish community provided 24 families with Christmas boxes with thanks going to VHS for sponsoring a food drive, to businesses and parishioners for food and financial support, and to Connie Braun's class for shopping for gifts and preparing cookie plates.

The St. Fidelis Thrift Shop experienced a flood the week before Christmas, resulting in 2-3 inches of water throughout the basement and part of the upstairs. After being closed for clean-up, they reopened on Jan. 2 and are once again receiving items. Overall, the shop continues to be a big success.

At the PAC center, the St. Fidelis Gift Shop is currently selling cookbooks, religious items, and the Trilogy CD. The parish expresses its thanks to the group for their donation of some of the profits from these sales.

New sewer averages

Residents are reminded that new sewer averages will be figured on their water usage between December 20 and March 20. The new amount will be reflected on May bills. These averages remain with the customer for one year.

Friendly Reminder



It's that time again! The deadline for registering your pets at City Hall is March 1. Both dogs and cats require tags. Cost for spayed/neutered animals is \$2.00 if purchased before the deadline. A current rabies immunization must be presented at the time a tag is issued. After that deadline, a late fee of \$1.00 per month is assessed. Owners whose pets are not licensed run the risk of a \$50 fine if their pet is picked up without a tag.

Hoisington Veterinary Service to visit Feb. 25

Members of the Hoisington Veterinary Clinic will bring their mobile unit to Victoria on Saturday, Feb. 15 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. They will be set up at City Hall.

Their staff members will be able to give all shots and also do short exams if time allows. City Hall has a complete list of prices for shots, microchips, etc. If anyone has questions, they can call Jess at (620) 653-2862 for more information.

Citizens will also be able to purchase their city pet tags at the same time.

Call us!

If you have given up your land line, we would appreciate updating our records with your cell number.

New ordinance allows for ATV/UTVs

The City of Victoria and the Victoria Police Department are happy to announce the passage of a new ordinance allowing on-street use of ATVs and other utility vehicles that would normally not be allowed under Kansas State Traffic Ordinance laws. The urge to approve this ordinance came from a number of citizen requests. In years past, the City has only allowed these vehicles to be driven on city streets when being used for things such as snow removal and yard spraying.

As of January 1, 2017, citizens and area residents may apply for a City of Victoria ATV registration at City Hall. A simple form must be filled out by the owner of the vehicle, who must be 18 years old. If the owner is underage, the parent or legal guardian must complete the form. Please have your driver's license, along with those of any other household member who may be operating the vehicle at any time. Also required is a copy of current insurance coverage on the vehicle as well as ownership documentation if available. This could be a bill of sale or the actual title. A \$25 registration fee is required with the application.

Once the application and documentation are complete, City Hall will then contact a Victoria police officer to inspect the vehicle. Please **DO NOT** drive the vehicle to City Hall. The vehicle is not legal until the inspection is passed and a decal is displayed.

Operators under the age of 18 may only operate a legally registered ATV/UTV on city streets if they have a graduated driver's license. The ordinance does NOT permit restricted drivers nor those with learners' permits or farm permits. Drivers must be 16 1/2 years old or older. All juvenile operators and passengers must wear helmets, no matter what type of ATV/UTV they are riding. Eye protection is also a must for everyone. The only substitutes for eye protection are a full-face helmet or a windshield that covers as high as the top of the tallest rider's head.

All legal ATV/UTVs must be equipped with headlights, taillights and brake lights. At least one rearview mirror must be mounted on the vehicle. No ATV/UTV will be permitted on city streets after dark. No ATV/UTV will be permitted on any highway, including Highway 40, Interstate 70 and Highway 255 (Cathedral St. from 13th to I-70). ATV/UTVs may only cross highways at a 90-degree angle.

If violations are committed, the owners and operators will be cited. All traffic laws must still be obeyed, the same as operating a car or pick-up. Keep in mind that this is a trial year for this ordinance. If peace and /or property are compromised, it is possible this privilege may be revoked. This ordinance is a great addition to the many benefits of living in Victoria, so operators are asked to be respectful of the rules.

We also ask that everyone be on the lookout for these vehicles. They are small with few safety features. A collision with a car or pickup could be deadly. Please be safe and have a happy new year!

First Care Clinic is looking for interested citizens to be a part of their Board. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at 5:30 in Hays. Anyone interested can find out more by contacting them at the following email address: fcc@firstcareclinic.com.

City hires new treasurer



As of September, the City now has a new treasurer. City Council voted to hire Jerry Schmidtberger for the part-time position. His duties include balancing funds at the end of the month as well as filing quarterly and annual reports with the State. He is currently in the process of trying to computerize as much of this new job as can be done.

Jerry has been retired from his prior job as Deputy Treasurer of Ellis County, a position he held for 32 years, for five years.

He says he is enjoying the opportunity to get out among the public and, being a numbers person, this job was a good fit. He is recently widowed after being the caregiver for his wife Louise for the past several years. He says he realized that he needs to use his mind and not "stagnate." The part-time nature of this post will allow him to travel to see his kids in the Kansas City area and "get to be Grandpa Jerry."

Reflecting on his last four years, he stated: "I was reminded over and over again of just what a special community we live in. I now want to give back to those that gave to me so much during those trying four years."

As a part of the singing group Trilogy, Jerry stays actively involved in musical activities. The group recently produced their first two CDs.



Like us on Facebook





Provided by
USD #432 Superintendent
David Ottley

We have welcomed 2017 and anticipate wonderful things from our students and staff in the New Year! Commercial Builders has completed the work on the VJSHS window project. We are excited with the results and look forward to the increased efficiency that it will offer. Also, the updated look for the south side is a pleasant change. We will complete some painting of the exposed exterior window frames and add screens to the classroom windows this spring.

January is Board of Education appreciation month. I would like to thank Darrell Dortland, Kevin Huser, Karen Nowak, P.J. Nowak, Don Pruitt, Shannon Radke and Alan Schulte for the service and guidance they provide USD #432. Public service is an important part of the success of every community!

USD #432 is currently involved in the beginning phase of the new state accreditation model known as Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA). This new model will have us focus on the seven Rose Capacities that are the focal point for the Kansas State Board of Education. Several years ago we committed to these capacities to help us focus on school improvement and student growth. Also, KESA will allow districts to ensure that the proper systems for student success are in place.

This spring the Board of Education will revisit our Capital Outlay Strategic Plan to reassess areas of concern and prioritize facility needs going forward. Long range planning allows us to make every effort to address issues before they become major problems. If your not moving ahead you are falling behind!

As always, I want to recognize the value of a community that is so proud of its past, yet so excited about its future. Our students are our best advertisement and our future. Please help USD #432 to build on our success of the past to ensure a bright future for all of our students.

FYI



If you are planning any significant building/improvement projects for your home, the city office has on file a list of all contractors, plumbers and electricians who are currently licensed with the city. And remember that those projects require a building permit as well.

P/T Conferences set for Feb. 6-7

Parents of junior/senior high school students will have a slightly different experience at the annual spring parent/teacher conferences set for February 6-7.

At that time, teachers will walk parents through the Career Cruising Program and the students' Independent Plan of Study Portfolio.

According to Counselor Kori Braun, the portfolio details the student's transcript, future college plans, occupations of interest and potential career path. This is in addition to the usual conversation about their child's current academic performance.

Conferences at the elementary school will have the same format as always.

Tri-Parish Youth News

Youth Ministry Coordinator Jeanette Brungardt reports that K-12 parish youth were responsible for preparing over 50 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. They also made and mailed Christmas cards to individuals. The Junior CYO held a successful Trick-or-Treat-so-Others -Can-Eat food drive and are planning to do a spring food collection for St. Fidelis' food pantry and the summer lunch program sponsored by St. Fidelis.